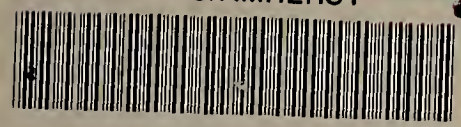


UMASS/AMHERST

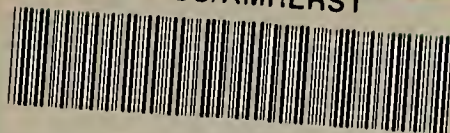


312066016265649

THE

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

UMASS/AMHERST



312066016537179

Volume V, Number 1

\$4.00

January, 1998

Not Guilty! - Again!:

THE SECOND BORDEN TRIAL

By Jules Ryckebusch

(Editor's note: As promised in our last issue, [Volume IV, Number 4, October, 1997 - Page 12], here is the full accounting of the second Lizzie Borden trial. As most of us know, the author is none other than our own Publisher. It was in this capacity that Jules was invited to Stanford Law School to serve on the Jury presided over by the Chief Justice and an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. This event will probably remain unsurpassed forever in the annals of true-crime mysteries. While Jules' personal beliefs may surface from time to time during the course of the article, it is the policy of the "Lizzie Borden Quarterly" to remain completely neutral on the subject.)

Lizzie Borden continues to win in the courts and in the press. On September 16, 1997, Lizzie was, once again, acquitted of the murders of her step-mother and father by a jury of about 750 Stanford Law School alumni, faculty and students. This jury was 75 times larger and a hundred times more educated than the one that originally set her free 104 years ago. The judges were more impressive too. The Honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States (Stanford LLB '52) and the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (Stanford LLB '52),



U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist speaks during a mock retrial of the famous Lizzie Borden murder case as Justice Sandra Day O'Connor looks on at left Julia Watson, bottom, played the role of Lizzie Borden.

(Associated Press)

presided and performed their roles well. They were also one reason that 2,000 people attended the Stanford retrial. The original trial in New Bedford also attracted celebrities, large crowds and tremendous press coverage.

Lizzie continues to attract the best defense possible. In the 1893 trial, George D. Robinson, a three-time governor of

Massachusetts, headed up her defense. As governor, he appointed Justin Dewey to the bench. Dewey was on the three-judge panel in this trial and was the one who read the charge to the Jury. That couldn't have happened today. By the way, the charge he delivered took an hour and a half to present. The Stanford retrial also took an hour and a half. And yes, Robinson played the gender card. In 1997 Lizzie was defended by Barbara Allen Babcock, Judge John Crown Professor of Law, Stanford Law School.

Professor Babcock is the first woman tenured law professor at Stanford. That couldn't have happened in 1893. And yes, she too played the gender card, but with considerably more humor than Robinson did. Robinson said, "She would have to get the bloody dress off a second time, or else use the second bloody dress ... In order to fit the handleless hatchet theory she must ... go beyond scientific work to get all the blood from the handle ... it was a moral and physical impossibility for her to do all this work of hiding clues in so

short a time." Babcock was more concise. "She has been convicted by a rhyme. Now it is time for reason. Without an axe or a bloody dress, Lizzie's not a murderess." Their styles differed, but both were winners.

Both trials were emotionally charged.

(Continued on Page 18)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

A Different Menu:

On The Table This Issue:

Not Guilty! - Again!: The Second Borden Trial Page 1.
by Jules R. Ryckebusch

John Vinnicum Morse

An Obituary Page 2.

A Photograph Page 2.

I Sat On His Lap Page 10.

Looking Back - My Life at 92 Second Street - 1960 Till Now Page 6.
by Martha McGinn

The House - Through My Eyes Page 7.
by Jane Rimer

Background of The House on Second Street Page 8.
by George R. Quigley

Last Issue's Question Answered! Page 9.

Lizzie, Yes - Lizzie, No Page 11.
The Publisher
The Editor

The Edmund Pearson/Frank Knowlton Correspondence Page 12.
PART II

A Book Review Page 17.
"Fall River" by Rob Lewis

Standard Fare:

BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN Page 4.
by Lisa Zawadzki

LIZBITS Page 5.
by Neilson Caplain

PRINCESS MAPLECROFT Page 19.
by Mary T. Cusack



MISS LIZBETH BORDEN'S EDITOR SPEAKS

A New Year with old thoughts! (Old wine in new bottles.) Once again we welcome you to a time long ago with mystery and adventure. But in this issue, as promised, we pull the Borden Trial into the present with our cover story. Also featured this issue is a trilogy of stories about The House on Second Street. They present three entirely different points of view with interest for all.

Next, we have a mysterious group photograph in which Miss Lizzie Borden may or may not be included. The Publisher and Editor have divergent points of view. What do you think? Lizzie, Yes or Lizzie, No?

And, lest we forget, please check the mailing label on the last page. If you see **Remaining Issues: 0**, start the New Year off right by renewing your subscription. We save money by not mailing expiration notices. Your cooperation is requested. Renew your subscription today!

Maynard F. Bertolet
Editor

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

Volume V, Number 1, January, 1998

Publisher Jules R. Ryckebusch
Editor Maynard F. Bertolet
Copy Editor Jeannine H. Bertolet
Design and Layout Maynard F. Bertolet
Photographer Jeannine H. Bertolet

Staff Contributors:

Neilson Caplain
Mary T. Cusack
Lisa Zawadzki

Current Issue Contributors:

Maynard F. Bertolet
Martha McGinn
George E. Quigley
Jane Rimer
Jules R. Ryckebusch

Printing and Mailing:

Leary Press
234 Second Street
PO Box 1030
Fall River, MA 02721-2098

The *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* is published four times a year on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15. Distribution is by U.S. mail. Current one-year USA mail subscriptions cost \$14.00 and \$24.00 for two years. Non-USA subscriptions are \$20.00 for one year and \$32.00 for two years. The Editor reserves the right to edit and/or revise submissions, without changing intent. If possible, please submit articles on floppy disks in the IBM ASCII format. To be considered, submissions must be received 60 days prior to the publication date. In order for letters to the editor to be considered for publication, the author's name, address and telephone number must be included. Advertising rates are \$50.00 for a quarter-page, \$100.00 for a half-page and \$200.00 for a full-page.

Send all subscription payments to:
Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Jules R. Ryckebusch - Publisher
Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391

Send all *LBQ* submissions,
letters to the editor and
address corrections to:
Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Maynard F. Bertolet - Editor
2 Blancoyd Road
Merion Station, PA 19066-1802
Telephone and Fax Numbers: (610) 664-2247
E-Mail: Bertolet@msn.com

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
(ISSN 1069-4900)
©1998 Bristol Community College
All rights reserved.
Unauthorized duplication prohibited by law.

JOHN VINNICUM MORSE

Obituary - A Photograph - "I Sat On His Lap"

By Maynard F. Bertolet

FALL RIVER EVENING NEWS

Friday, March 1, 1912

Page 9

DEATH OF JOHN V. MORSE

PROMINENT FIGURE AT THE BORDEN MURDER TRIAL TWENTY YEARS AGO

John V. Morse, a native of Somerset and a former resident of Fall River, died this morning in Hastings, Iowa at the age of 79 years.

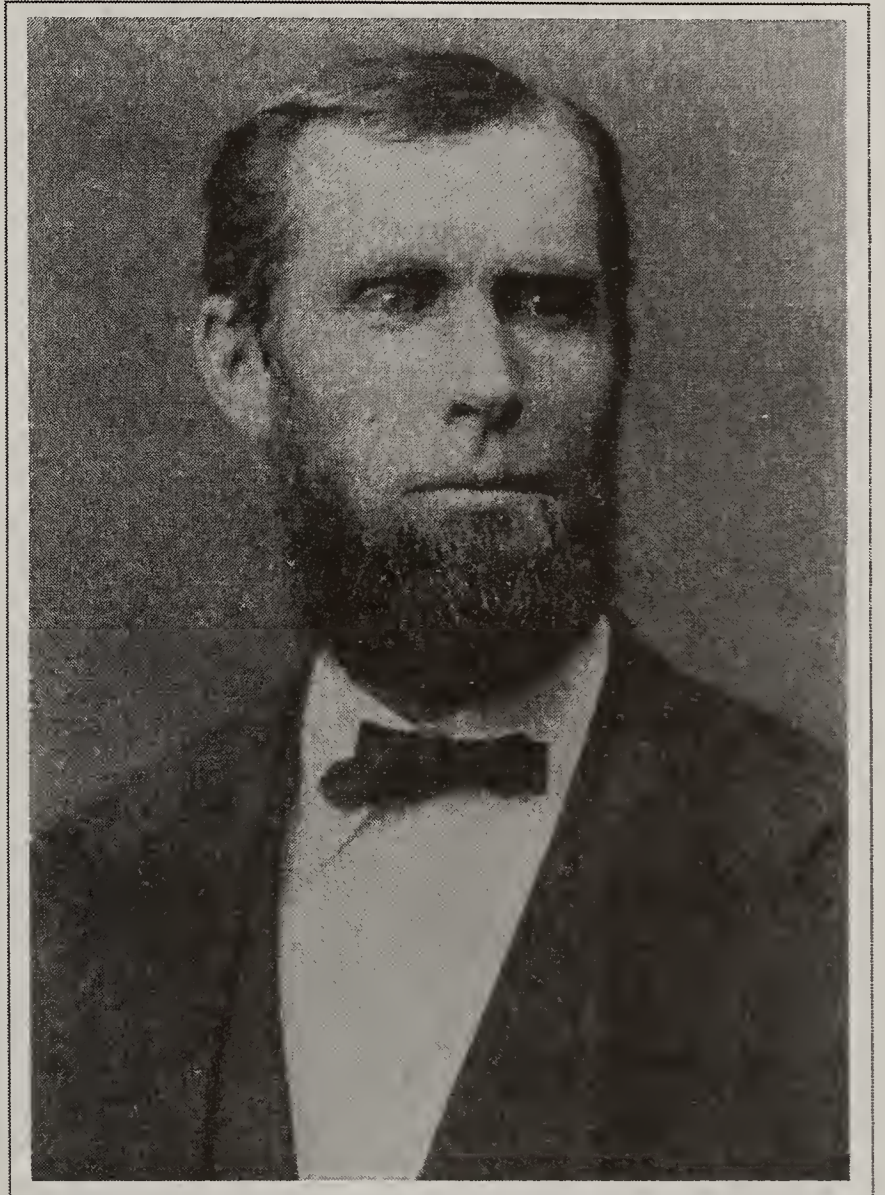
Mr. Morse was visiting in the home of Andrew J. Borden on Second Street at the time Mr. Borden and his wife were murdered August 4, 1892 but was calling in another part of the city when the crime was committed. He was a brother of Sarah A. Morse, who was Mr. Borden's first wife, and he came into great prominence as a witness at the trial that followed the murder.

John Vinnicum Morse, who was the son of Anthony Morse, was born July 5, 1833 and spent his youth in this city. As a young man, he was employed for two years by Charles and Isaac Davis of South Dartmouth who were engaged in the meat business. But at the age of 22 he went to Illinois where he remained for fourteen years and then went to Iowa where he had since lived. His business was the raising of horses and cattle.

Early in his career, Mr. Morse made a promise to himself that when he was able to retire he would do so and spend his last days in comfort. He kept this promise and for more than twenty years came East each summer to visit in this city and New Bedford. He used to spend much of his time while in New Bedford in the marble shop of ex-mayor, Thomas Thompson, where he and Mr. Thompson had many discussions on the possibilities of existence after death. He was also fond of fishing and for some years had a boat in New Bedford. He was a familiar figure, both in that city and in Fall River.

Mr. Morse was never married. In addition to his nieces, Miss Lizbeth A. Borden, of this city, and Miss Emma L. Borden, of Providence, he is survived by a brother, William Morse, of Excelsior, Minnesota, and a half-sister Arabel Davidson, of Hastings, Iowa. Mrs. Louisa A. Morse, of this city, now deceased, was a sister.

In connection with the Borden murders, Mr. Morse used to relate a curious circumstance that came to him while in Hastings, shortly before the double tragedy. Mr. Morse had a fancy for having his fortune told. He was in a store in Hastings one day when a gypsy was there telling fortunes. The woman had told a number of fortunes and when Mr. Morse came in he requested that she tell his fortune offering her the money at the time. She refused to tell it even though Mr. Morse and others urged her to do so. She finally replied that no money could tempt her to tell his fortune. You don't want it told, she said and that ended it. She refused absolutely to say anything. It was shortly after this that the murders were committed. Speaking of the circumstances subsequently, Mr. Morse said he would give fifty dollars to have known what was in the woman's mind when she refused to tell his fortune. He always wondered if the woman had the dark tragedy in mind.



John Vinnicum Morse

We are pleased to present this premiere printing event. Finally, we are able to see what John Vinnicum Morse really looked like without depending on an artist's sketch of him during the Borden Trial. It has been authenticated by the *Fall River Historical Society* and is a part of their Archives. Previously, this photograph had only been fleetingly seen on the *Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Channel Biography Series, "Lizzie Borden - a Woman Accused,"* and never in print!

The photograph was anonymously donated to the *Fall River Historical Society* and is not available for sale to the public. In order for us to present this photograph to our readers, it was necessary for the *Fall River Historical Society* to query the donor for special permission.

We are grateful to the *Fall River Historical Society* and the anonymous donor for making it possible.

Photograph reproduced courtesy of the *Fall River Historical Society*
Digital conversion by Bertolet Archives

(Please see related article on Page 10)

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers. I hope you've all been reading up on everyone's favorite murder case. I still haven't gotten to tour 92 Second Street. Maybe I'll get there soon; I have to do some Christmas shopping at the mill outlets in Fall River. I deserve a break; I work hard finding new readables for you.

Lane, Roger:

Murder in America, A History

Columbus, Ohio:

Ohio State University Press, 1997: 2-3, 205-209, 291, 339

Author Lane has prepared a very nice, if brief, overview of this American murder. Particular attention was paid to the police and forensic activities of the era and how they were put to use in this high profile case. This theme was followed throughout the book, examining how these fields progressed over time.

What I liked best about this short summary was the clarity of the explanations, especially with regards to legal matters. Many authors only show one side, (the one that supports their theories), or else make a confused jumble of the whole complicated affair. Lane acknowledged that while the state really didn't prove Lizzie "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," he was hard-pressed to come up with another serious suspect.

He likened the Borden murders to the "locked box" mysteries of later fiction writers. I think he has picked up on one of the more important reasons for the case's enduring popularity with the public. People always love a good mystery, and the Borden murders are as good as any dreamed up by a mystery writer. Being real-life, however, they are not solved by the last chapter, (at least not to my satisfaction), which is what has kept people engrossed in the case for over 100 years.

Borden followers will appreciate this book. While the bit on the case is short, it is obvious that Lane has done his homework. If you are interested in the history of American murder and police work in general, you will certainly enjoy the entire book.

Carter, Angela:

Lizzie's Tiger and The Fall River Axe Murders

In *Burning Your Boats: The Collected Short Stories*

New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1995: 321-331

This "best of" anthology featured two short stories by the late author which featured Miss Lizzie Borden as the protagonist. Both stories originally appeared in other works by the author. The first was from the 1993 book *American Ghosts and Old World Wonders*, the second from 1985's *Black Venus*. (The U.S. title was *Saints and Strangers*.) In neither story did poor Miss Lizzie fare particularly well.

In "Lizzie's Tiger," Lizzie was four years old, newly orphaned, and living in a rather ratty place on Ferry Street. When Father sent her to bed early after refusing even to consider funding a trip to the circus, Lizzie took matters into her own hands. She simply slipped out the door and went anyway. When Lizzie got to the circus she had many adventures, some of them not repeatable in a family paper like the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*.

Lizzie was fascinated by the tiger in the cage and felt an immediate bond with the creature. When the cruel animal tamer came in and subdued the animal Lizzie was heartbroken. The

story ended when she was recognized by the townspeople.

I can't say I really enjoyed this story. The mood I picked up was one of hopelessness; that everyone involved was somehow rotten or tainted. That Lizzie was a strong-willed, adventurous little girl only leads her into misfortune. Maybe that's the point of the story, I'm not sure. This is one that the readers will have to decide for themselves.



The second story, *The Fall River Axe Murders*, featured a grown-up Lizzie. Like the previous story, the author wove in a good amount of factual background. We are lurking about 92 Second Street the morning of the 4th of August. We get to follow Miss Lizzie about, hearing her thoughts. The feeling was one of foreboding and doom; the heat and physical discomfort were described at length.

The story ends just after Mr. Borden killed Lizzie's prized pigeons because Abby wanted them for a pie. The story ended with an angel of death roosting on the Borden roof that fateful morning. While Carter didn't say as much, you just know that Lizzie will kill her parents very soon.

I liked this story much more. While both were well-written and researched, the creepy feeling Carter created was much better suited here. The brooding, oppressive mood of the narrative was more appropriate for what the reader knows will happen later in the day.

The *Chad Mitchell Trio* singing the song **Lizzie Borden** in: *Mighty Day on Campus*, Kapp KL-1262, 1961, LP recording
Also appeared on:

- *The Best of the Chad Mitchell Trio*, Kapp KS-3334, LP
- Kapp 439, 45 RPM recording, 1962

This funny song by Michael Brown appeared in the original cast LP of *New Faces of 1952*, (RCA Victor Records LOC-1008). The *Chad Mitchell Trio*, a clean-cut folk trio, performed a spirited live version of it. They even added a new and historically inaccurate introduction, incorrectly referring to Miss Lizzie as "Elizabeth." I am still attempting to track this down on compact disc. I will keep you posted on my success. I have already given the citation for an article by the song's author containing the lyrics. See my December, 1995 column for the details.

That's all for now. I'll see you in the next issue.

by Neilson Caplain

THE BUFFINTONS AND THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR

(Editor's note: Issue after issue passes by with outstanding articles and research accomplished by Mr. Caplain. This month is no exception and warrants especial notice. Many books compound earlier errors that, without verification, become accepted by repetition as truth. In this issue, Mr. Caplain points out another such discrepancy, elaborates on it and accentuates the positive. His piece about the 'House Next Door' and its occupants introduces the following three articles dealing with the Borden property itself, from three entirely different viewpoints.)

If the spirit moved her, Adelaide Churchill could look from her house right into the Borden kitchen. And, as neighbors do in many a small town, she noted all the goings and comings on the Borden back stairs. Adelaide, who was the first outsider on the scene after Lizzie called for help, lived in the Buffinton house, only five or six yards from where Lizzie and her folks lived.

The Buffinton House and its occupants have intrigued me for a long time. Robert Sullivan, in his book *Good-bye Lizzie Borden*, describes the place as a square, cupola-topped building, thus conforming to its appearance in the sketch of the neighborhood that appears so often in the Lizzie books.

The house was settled on a large plot of land at a time when Second Street was a tree-shaded residential thoroughfare where many fine houses were located. Nearby was the home of Nathaniel B. Borden, who later became one of the most influential citizens of Fall River. Opposite was the Bowen-Miller house.

With the change in the character of Second Street to a more commercial neighborhood, the Buffinton land was sold off piece by piece, thus accounting for its proximity to the Borden domicile.

It is difficult to describe the Buffinton house. The problem is that there are no pictures of the whole front facade of the house, at least none at the Historical Society where Jamelle Tanous was good enough to search among the archives. The closest to be found are pictures of the Borden house which show only the southeast corner of the the Buffinton house. Some other helpful pictures of the same views were found by my good friend, Leonard Rebello.

Therefore, much of the following is simply my own conjecture, hoping that at least a good idea of the appearance of the house is portrayed.

The house was built of horizontal clapboard separated from the sidewalk only by the width of the entry steps. Thus there was but a narrow front lawn. It was a substantial mansion for its time, two stories and an attic in height, topped by a flat or gently-peaked roof adorned with a cupola and closely-spaced brackets under the narrow waves. It boasted high, narrow, shuttered windows on the lower floors and small oblong windows in the attic. This was a popular style of architecture in Fall River in the mid-1800's. A few examples of this type are still standing along the streets in town.

Entrance to the Buffinton house was reached by four wide stone steps of granite mined at one of the quarries that existed in Fall River at the time. The steps led to huge double doors outlined by stone posts and narrow shutters on both sides. Low granite stone work curved around both sides of the entry steps, extending along the sidewalk to the edge of the property. This stonework was surmounted by a fence of iron spikes terminating

with a gate at the Borden line. A low solid wood fence separated the two properties front to rear.

A substantial ell, serving as the Buffinton kitchen, was added to the south side of the house close to the Borden residence. It didn't quite extend to the front of the house, allowing for a porch to square off the front corner. In the summer time, the narrow front end of the porch, facing the street, was covered with vines. At each corner, joining the end posts to the ceiling, were fancy iron brackets. A low railing with wide balusters, typically vase-shaped, lined the edges.

Since they are of a style of another day, I surmise that the ell and porch, as well as the imposing paneled double doors at the head of the entry steps, were added some time after the house was built.

In 1843 the house and 24 rods of land were valued at \$2600 by the City Assessors, quite a respectable sum when one considers other valuations of like properties at the time.

The Sullivan book is mistaken in pointing out "it was known in Mrs. Churchill's day as the old Mayor Buffinton house because Fall River's first Mayor had lived there in the mid-1860's." The first Mayor, elected upon the change of the town charter to a city form of government in 1854, was a provisions dealer, James Buffinton (1817-1878). This gentleman never lived on Second Street and there is no evidence that he was related to the real occupant, Edward P. Buffinton, Adelaide Churchill's father.



Second Street Looking South in 1892
The Buffinton property is at the left front, next door to the Borden House

Photograph Courtesy of The Fall River Historical Society
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

(Continued on Page 19)

LOOKING BACK - MY LIFE AT 92 SECOND STREET - 1960 TILL NOW

By Martha McGinn

(Editor's note: As we all know, the Borden house on Second Street has been converted to a Bed and Breakfast/Museum with daily tours. What may not be quite so well known is that co-owner Ms. McGinn was a resident of the house for several years during her youth. She not only opens doors of understanding to the house itself, but also allows us to glimpse into the hearts and minds of both owners. The picture she paints tells us much about what is good in America, and then some I hope you enjoy this piece as much as I did! It reads like a "Saturday Evening Post" story from the 1950's The best of both worlds .. then and now.)

Due to the unrelenting persistence of Maynard F. Bertolet, editor of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, I agreed to relate what it was like to grow up in the Borden house at 92 Second Street in Fall River, Massachusetts. My hesitation to write this article stemmed from doubts that not too many people would be interested in my family's history, since it didn't seem all that remarkable to me. But Maynard assured me, over and over, that it *is* of interest, and looking back, we did have some good times that were exclusive to the Lizzie Borden mystery ... so here goes ...

My earliest recollections of the house at 92 Second Street, (actually, it was numbered 230 at that time), were not of Lizzie Borden. When my sister, brother and I were very young, the only meaning it had to us was that it was "Gram and Papa's" house, and it was a house filled with laughter. My grandparents owned the print shop next door, the *Leary Press*, where our father also worked while our mother performed mailing services for the shop at home.

There were occasionally unexplained occurrences at the house, such as lights turning themselves on and off, doors opening and shutting, a radio that would randomly go on and off, an unwound alarm clock that would suddenly sound the alarm ... little things like that. There was never anything like a poltergeist and although we might get a little unnerved at times, it was never frightening.

When I was seven and my sister eight, we formed a detective club with our two closest friends, Kerrie and Colleen Donnelly. Every Saturday we would take the bus downtown, go to the library and the *Fall River Historical Society*. We brought with us our "detective kits" - shoe boxes containing a magnifying glass, Merthiolate, Band Aids, and various decoders that I think we got out of *Cracker Jack* boxes. We would proceed from the Historical Society to my grandparent's home for our grand adventure. We were determined and secure in our knowledge that we would solve this famous mystery once and for all. We would slowly make our way from cellar to attic (stopping in the kitchen for a bottle of Coke and a snack - detective work can make you very hungry indeed) and examine every nook and cranny for the one clue that would crack the case. My father would hide in various places throughout the house, be it a closet, behind a bed or a door, and would pick an opportune time to toss my grandmother's big black cat Jenny across the room at us and give us a good scare.

Needless to say, we never did solve the case or find the

murder weapon, but it was a fun thing to do on many a rainy Saturday afternoon.

As a teenager I moved in with my grandparents, and it wasn't "bumps in the night" that would scare us, it was humans! We generally ate dinner in the kitchen on the second floor and my grandfather's chair was right next to the window that overlooked the roof to the print shop. More than once, actually, many more times than once, we'd be enjoying a regular family meal when all of sudden a face would appear at the window. We would jump a mile. This was the one thing that really angered my grandfather. He understood people's curiosity with the case and would sit outside, chat with passersby and hand out postcards of the house. But he also felt that this was our home and people should respect that. Some people would even try to tear the clapboard off the side of the house. Others would get really agitated that they weren't allowed inside. Somehow they seemed to think that, since this was the infamous Lizzie Borden house, the people who lived there had no right to keep the public out.



The 17-Year-Old Miss Martha Peering Through Then Till Now

Photograph Courtesy of Martha McGinn
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

If they had seen the inside they may have been a bit disappointed, as it was a very "50's" decor, i.e., a red formica kitchen table, yellow cabinets and "grandma chairs" that no one was allowed to sit in. It was a very typical family home. It had been converted sometime before into a two-family dwelling and since my great-aunt Peg Nelson lived on the second floor, we treated

the whole house as a single family unit.

As teenagers, my sister Jill and I would bring our friends to see the house. My grandparents always welcomed us, and continued to treat us as they did when we were younger. They would serve Cokes and snacks. Some nights we would even have seances. We never did contact any spirits, but it was a great excuse for the girls to squeal and hang onto their boyfriends.

About this time, a young man came to work for my grandfather at the *Leary Press*. He didn't have a clue as to what his future would be at the *Leary Press* and the infamous Borden house on Second Street. He was a student at BMC Durfee High School, quiet and hard-working. (Remember the old saying, "It's the quiet ones you have to watch out for.") The young man's name was Ron Evans. He worked part-time throughout high school, was drafted, and served as a machine-gunner in Vietnam. Upon his return he went back to work at *Leary Press* and was also given the responsibility of taking care of the properties at my grandparent's home, among other properties they owned. My dad

passed away of a heart attack in 1977 and Ron was once again drafted in another way. He was suddenly given the responsibility of running the businesses since my grandparents were retired. He did so with enthusiasm and imagination, which turned out to be a big asset in what was to come later. At this time I was living my own life and too young to keep the companies above

water; in addition, nobody in the family was interested. Except for myself, all lived out of state and had their own families, jobs and homes. Later on, Ron and I became partners in the businesses, and here we are today ...

The house is now open to the public as a bed and breakfast/museum. The printing press is still going strong and we have made many new friends. We hope that since folks are now allowed to tour the house and spend the night if they wish, perhaps one of them will find that final clue that eluded us those many years ago when our detective club roamed the rooms of the Lizzie Borden House at 92 Second Street.



Gram and Papa in 1968 - All Dolled Up For A Ride!

Photograph Courtesy of Martha McGinn
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

THE HOUSE - THROUGH MY EYES

by Jane Rimer

(Editor's note: It is our pleasure to welcome back Ms. Rimer. As you may recall, it was she who furnished the delightful cartoon on Page 7 of the July, 1997 issue. This time, she relates her first-time experience inside the Second Street house. She writes with such enthusiasm and paints her word pictures with such gusto that her eyes become our eyes and we share the experience with her. Please come again Jane!)

At long last the Lizzie Borden home has become a public, guided display. Revamped and renamed the *Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast/Museum*, tours are conducted on the half hour between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. A visitor desiring overnight facilities has several rooms and suites from which to pick. My August, 1997 experience of the house tour was delightfully filling.

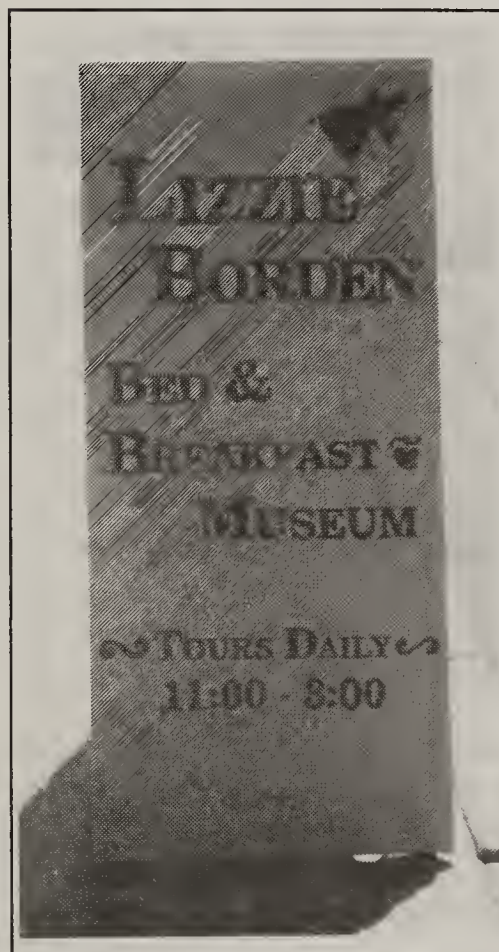
Tour guests meet in the front parlor. The room showcases

Borden memorabilia that is for sale. The variety is extensive, well-executed and all a Borden buff could desire. Lest you think any item has been forgotten, jonny cake meal and a brick from the Borden home chimney are also for sale. The tour commences.

The sitting room (the ghost of Andrew, a replica of the death sofa) ... the dining room ... the kitchen ... history comes alive and I need more time to assimilate my Borden knowledge into the walls of the house ... time ran out for Andrew too ... I am ushered up the narrow back stairs to the Borden suite ... spill into Lizzie's room (the window exposures she cherished) ... Emma's room (now I can understand Lizzie's quarrel with its size; it is

tiny) ... the guest room (again still, time needed to absorb Abby's last stand, Uncle John's presence) ... but the tour continues and of course history cannot be held at bay ... upstairs to the third floor ... Bridget's room ... and two bedrooms made out of previous storage space: the Andrew Jennings Room and the Hosea Knowlton Room ... and back down a flight - to the landing.

The curved staircase surrounds me; I am Lizzie 105 years later and I stand on a step that has suspended her between murders. To my right and up ever so slightly, Abby lies dead. At the bottom of the staircase, at the front door, Bridget is in my mind's eye hastening Andrew to his fate. The compact, tiny floor plan finally, truly, impacts on me. It would not have unless I was



The Second Street Tour Sign

Photograph Courtesy of Jane Rimer
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

in this house, at this spot. This unchallenged moment, in this house, is all-encompassing; I am of the realization that, as a Borden devotee, who could ask for anything more?

Visitors to 92 Second Street who are not steadfast regarding Borden authenticity, but adoring of Victorian appointments, will be rendered nearly speechless. The furniture, wallpapers, linens and colors are THAT gorgeous. Lizzie would have swooned with her splendid approval.

My return trip will be an overnight one, for the intrigue of getting closer yet to the mystery. I expect half the fun will be deciding in which room I will stay. Of course, there are always additional nights! Two delicious advantages the overnight guest has that the tour visitor does not are access to the basement and the book/video collection, encased in the sitting room. Not far from the sofa.

I exit The House quite reluctantly, but yet grateful for my future Borden "business" here. The legend of Lizzie Borden continues.

BACKGROUND OF THE HOUSE ON SECOND STREET

by George E. Quigley

(Editor's note: We welcome Mr. Quigley back to the pages of "The Lizzie Borden Quarterly." George is the President of "The International Lizzie Borden Association" (TILBA) and also is employed at "The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast/Museum." His title search and research of the Second Street property fits right into our mini-series about the house and is a welcome addition indeed. Thank you George!)

During the trial of Lizzie Borden held in New Bedford, MA in June of 1893, an unidentified man was seen coming to the door of 92 Second Street to greet visitors. The man was a caretaker hired by Emma. A local newspaper incorrectly reported the man was John Vinnicum Morse. Morse, however, was believed to be renting a room at a boarding house on nearby Fourth Street.

It has often been assumed that Emma and Lizzie sold the house on Second Street shortly before moving to 7 French Street in the Highlands. Nothing could be further from the truth. The unassuming Greek Revival domicile continued to be owned by Emma and Lizzie for over twenty-five years.

SOUTHARD MILLER, BUILDER

Southard Miller was the contractor for the recently completed Fall River City Hall. The granite building also housed the public library and farmer's market. Miller lived down the hill on the west side of Second Street and was later to become a city alderman. He had hired nineteen-year-old Andrew Jackson Borden as a carpenter in 1842. Andrew continued to work for Miller until 1846 when, according to Miller, Andrew decided that being a carpenter was "boring work" and decided to go into the furniture business.

In 1844, Miller was contracted to build a Greek Revival design house on property previously owned by Ladwick Borden, a cousin of Andrew. Since Andrew was an employee of Miller's during the time the house was built, it is probable that Andrew Borden was involved with the construction of the Second Street house.

CHARLES TRAFTON

"The buildings and almost thirty rods of land, more or less ..." were deeded to Charles and Susan A. Trafton in 1845. The house was built as a two-family residence on a plot of land on the east side of Second Street. It bordered property of Edward P. Buffinton on the north side, the property of John C. Milne to the east, and the land of Ladwick Borden on the south. The street number was 66 Second Street. The first floor was to be occupied by the Traftons. They rented the second floor to a Mr. L. Clapp.

ANDREW BORDEN

On April 26, 1872 the property was sold to Andrew J. Borden for \$10,000. In the same year Andrew and his partner in the furniture and undertaking business, William Almy, also purchased the Swansea farm on Gardner's Neck Road. Andrew always said he prided himself in paying cash in all his business transactions. When Andrew moved to Second Street from 12 Ferry Street in 1872, according to the testimony of Lizzie, the family had to live on the first floor for a few months. When the



The Borden house on right and yard looking toward Second Street in 1892
Today the yard is the site of *The Leary Press*

Photograph Courtesy of "The Fall River Historical Society"
Digital Conversion by *Bertolet Archives*

occupants of the second floor apartment moved out, he made the house a single-family dwelling by converting the second-floor kitchen into his bedroom. He then tore down the wall between the two bedrooms on the first floor and made the enlarged room a dining room.

EMMA AND LIZZIE BORDEN

When Andrew met his demise on August 4, 1892, Emma, as the oldest direct heir, inherited the entire estate, since there was no will in evidence. On Friday, September 2, 1892, two days after the Borden hatchet-murders preliminary hearing concluded, a document was filed passing the estate to Emma. It was not until January 22, 1894, seven months after the acquittal, that Emma passed on to Lizzie her share of the inheritance in a document witnessed by Andrew Jennings.

CHARLES DUNN

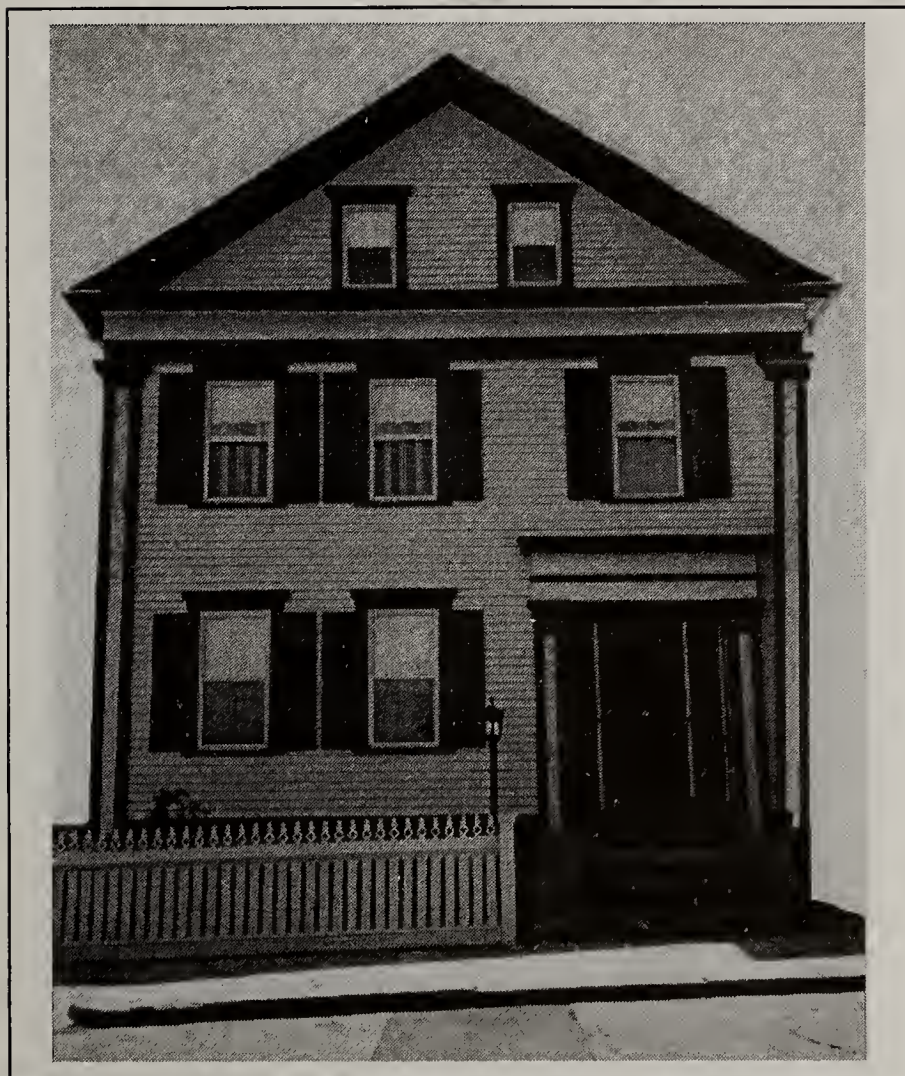
It was recorded on June 15, 1918 that the sisters transferred ownership to Charles W. Dunn of 40 Morgan Street, "for \$1.00,

and other valuable considerations." Dunn was in the real estate business and had managed the property for the Borden sisters. During the period between 1894 and 1918 he had rented the two floors to several families.

Breakfast/Museum. In 1996, the U.S. Postal Service granted permission for the number of the house to return to 92, as it had been designated in 1892.

MARTHA MCGINN AND RONALD EVANS

Martha McGinn and Ronald Evans are now the co-proprietors of not only the most infamous house in America, but also, a fine example of a Victorian residence.



The House as it looks today

Photograph Courtesy of Jeannine Bertolet
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS

On February 2, 1920, Dunn sold the property to Mandel and Annie Mark of 10 Rodman Street for "consideration paid." Mandel was known about the city as "Sharkey," because he was believed to be a loan shark and bookie. Shortly afterwards, Mark built the concrete structure on the south side of the house. It was to become a kewpie doll factory. By the mid-twenties, he had the wooden barn in the rear of the property torn down and added another building that soon housed a button manufacturer. After Annie died, the property was transferred from Mandel Mark to the Fall River Trust Company on March 29, 1940. The house was now numbered 230 Second Street. On September 3, 1943, Wilfred A. and Alice A. Gingras of 93 Osborn Street purchased the property for \$10,000.

JOHN AND JOSEPHINE MCGINN

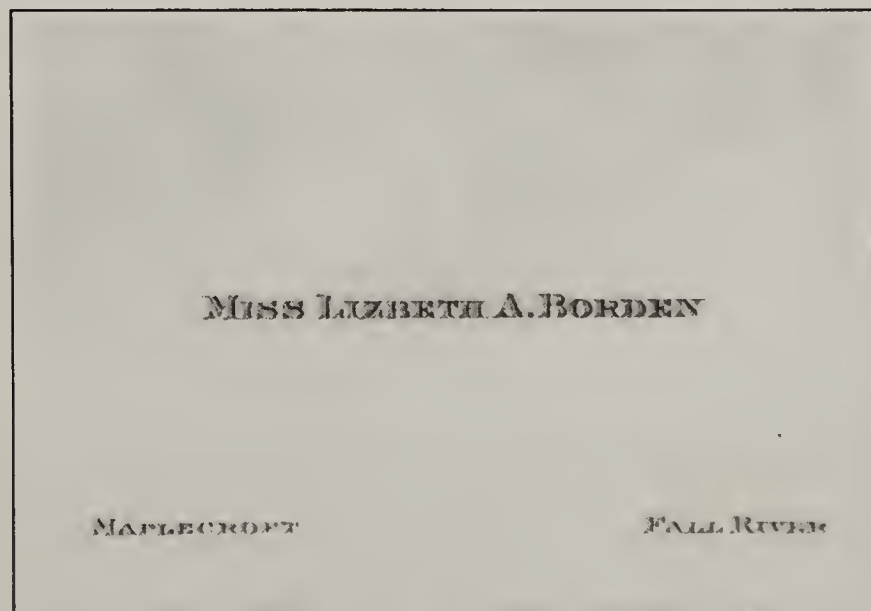
The house was sold by the Gingras' on December 7, 1948 to John and Josephine McGinn for \$11,000. The buildings surrounding the house became *The Leary Press and Mailing Company*. The McGinn family lived at the house until 1995. After the passing of Josephine McGinn, the house was renovated and opened to the public. It is now *The Lizzie Borden Bed &*

Last Issue's Question Answered!

On Page 4 of the last issue, the Editor disclosed that the printer font used for our regular features, **BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN, LIZBITS** and **PRINCESS MAPLECROFT** has a significant meaning and challenged the readership to come up with the reason. Unfortunately, none guessed the correct answer.

After moving to *Maplecroft*, Miss Lizbeth was very proud of her home and took care to keep it well-run and in good condition. One of the factors that revealed her pride was having personal calling cards printed with her new name and the name she gave to her home.

Immediately below on this page, please see the authentic photograph of her calling card and note the **TYPE** used by the Printer. As can be seen with the naked eye, the **FONTs** are exactly the same!



Calling Card of Miss Lizbeth A. Borden

Photograph Courtesy of *The Fall River Historical Society*
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

JOHN VINNICUM MORSE

"I Sat On His Lap"

by Maynard F. Bertolet

It was a beautiful spring day that Thursday, May 29, 1997 in Charleton, Massachusetts. One of our subscribers, Mr. R. Reed Grimwade, had advised that his mother, Mrs. Doris Reed Grimwade, as a young girl had met Mr. John Vinnicum Morse. We eagerly tramped to Charlton and were immediately charmed by her home and surroundings. It seemed as though we had stepped back into time and the years had filtered out the problems of today through the mist of yesterday.

Even though 98 years old, Mrs. Grimwade has a remarkable memory and sharply focused on her youth. "I went to the Baptist Church when I went to church, which pleased my father, but we didn't go very much. My mother was a Quaker. She was from



We were immediately charmed by her home and surroundings

Photograph Courtesy of Jeannine Bertolet
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

Quaker descent. I have one brother, Carl, and we had relatives in New Bedford. My mother was from New Bedford, so we went to visit quite often. We'd visit around. I went to grammar school, Highland School, Durfee High School and then to Wellesley College. At one time Alice Russell taught sewing in the schools. This was when I was in grammar school. We used to have an art teacher come around once a month and a music teacher and a sewing teacher for the girls and Alice Russell was the sewing teacher one year. I don't remember her very well but I remember that her name was Russell. I lived in Fall River until I graduated Wellesley and then I taught school for three years in North Attleboro and Southboro and then I married and came up here.

"John Vinnicum Morse was a friend of the family. I was only about three years old when all this was happening with John Morse and what I remember is mother taking me to New Bedford because John Morse was visiting and she wanted to see him. He was an old family friend. And what I remember about it was sitting on his lap, and his white beard. What interested me most was a gold watch with a heavy gold chain with sort of an ornament. You put the watch in one vest pocket and then the chain and the thing to hold it down in another. The fob, I guess you call it, yes. When he was visiting they were very glad to see

him. Mother made a special trip. She was the one who was most interested in the Lizzie Borden business.

"It was my great-aunt and great-uncle whose house we went to. Aunt Amelia and Uncle Mort Bouvais, their name was. He was a Frenchman. He had been to sea. Whaling days. But he was retired and Mr. Morse was visiting them. I don't know if he was staying with them or not. He was there. John Morse was a friend, a very well-respected, well-liked friend of the family. Sometimes he stayed out in Pettinara with ... the Davis's, Charles and Issac, (*Editor's note: See obituary on Page 3*) had a farm out there and I don't know if he was staying with my aunt and uncle or just visiting them the way we were. They lived in an apartment on the second floor but I couldn't tell you what street.

"What can I tell you about him? Everybody liked John Morse. I mean he was a welcome guest where ever he went. Another thing I can tell you about him that my mother told me, he never allowed you to talk about Lizzie Borden in his presence.

He didn't want to discuss her at all. The whole thing was distasteful. Why should he get mixed up in it? And why should he have to talk about it afterwards? I don't know. You don't talk about things like that. He just got mixed up in it and didn't want to talk about it. He never discussed her afterwards. Nobody ever spoke of it to him.

"I lived at 289 Belmont Street in Fall River and if you went two blocks and around, Maplecroft was there. It was not in the neighborhood exactly but we'd pass it going back and forth, but I never saw Lizzie. She was living there at the time. We always looked, you know, to see if she was handing out anything or was appearing. We were children

as we went by. She was a topic. Whatever she did was a topic.

"Before she was married, mother was a girl in Fall River and of course the murders were the big event of the century and mother was convinced of Lizzie Borden's innocence during the trial and even after that. It was a long time before she really came around. But, of course, every year in August the Fall River paper printed something that reminded you of Lizzie Borden. You were always reminded of her. And mother came around. No one in Fall River ever believed Lizzie was innocent after the trial. They protected her throughout but there never was any chance of her being convicted. After all, she was a woman and a Sunday School teacher."

We exchanged pleasantries and left shortly thereafter. While not really learning any new facts about the life and times of John Vinnicum Morse, we did see a bit of his human side, his respect in the community, and his reluctance to discuss the case. It was interesting indeed to be in the presence of one who had known two of the major Borden case participants. In addition, Mrs. Grimwade's mother's view of the case seemed to fit that of many Fall River residents before and after the trial. Perhaps another time we shall learn more



The young Doris and Carl

Photograph Courtesy of R. Reed Grimwade
Digital Conversion by Bertolet Archives

LIZZIE, YES - LIZZIE, NO

(Editor's note: These articles require a bit of explanation. First of all, it might be helpful to study the photograph below. Some believe the person on the far right of the middle row to be Miss Lizzie Borden herself. There is some difference of opinion as to whether or not this is actually the case!



I must first of all confess that, one of the reasons I am your editor, is due to the excellent relationship between the publisher, Mr. Ryckebusch, and myself. Prior to assuming this position, it was made perfectly clear that all editorial decisions would rest with the editor, and, truth to tell, our relationship has been one of the finest ever encountered in my entire professional career.

This is precisely why it is so difficult for the editor to respectfully differ with the publisher as to whether it is actually Miss Borden in the photograph. But, for the very first time, our opinions are twain "Lizzie, Yes - Lizzie No." If you wish to weigh in on the subject yourself, thoughtful letters to the editor will be accepted for subsequent publication.)

LIZZIE - YES

by Jules Ryckebusch

The above photograph was taken by *Gay's Studio* in Fall River, Massachusetts, circa 1890. *Gay's* photographic studio was the most prominent of such studios in the area at the time. It is this author's considered opinion that the woman at the right end of the center row is Lizzie Borden. This is my opinion, and not the official position of *The Lizzie Borden Quarterly*.

My judgment rests on the following observations:

1. I have examined all known extant photos of Lizzie and find that the facial features, especially the strong protruding jaw and piercing eyes seen in this photo, are consistent with all the other photos of Lizzie.
2. At the time of the murders, and later at the trial, there was never any reference made to a Lizzie look-alike.
3. After having one of my best students pursue the identity of the photo and having pursued it myself at the Fall River Historical Society, no other identification could be made.

4. The Fall River Historical Society has had a copy of the photo for four months and has not yet been able to identify any of the women in the picture.

The original photograph (about 8" by 10") will go up at auction on April 6, 1998, at the *Swann Galleries, Inc.*, 104 East 25th St., New York, NY 10010-2977. For further information contact Daile Kaplan at the above address. This particular auction will be devoted to important historical photographs.

LIZZIE - NO

by Maynard F. Bertolet

First of all, a bit of history might be in order. While surfing the internet early this year, I chanced upon the web page for *The Drawing Room*, located at 152-154 Spring Street in Newport, Rhode Island 02840, E-Mail: drawingroom@drawrm.com, Web Page: <http://www.drawrm.com/lizzie.htm>, Telephone Number: 1-(401) 841-5060.

The portion of the picture containing the questioned Lizzie was enlarged and captioned:

"*Gay's Studio* was the most important photographic studio in Fall River in the late 19th century. The quality of the image does not come through when reproduced here. When viewed in person, it becomes immediately apparent that the photo is indeed Lizzie Borden. The above photo is not for sale."

Thinking it to be an interesting novelty, I downloaded, printed and mailed the image to Mr. Ryckebusch who later visited *The Drawing Room*, viewed the original, and became convinced it was actually Miss Lizzie Borden herself in the photograph.

My own thoughts differ for the following reasons:

1. Several years ago the same photograph had been offered for sale by *Swann Galleries* who requested prior authentication from the *Fall River Historical Society*. Mrs. Florence Brigham was Curator at the time and refused to authenticate it, consequently the Fall River Historical Society declined authentication. Subsequently, the photograph was withdrawn from that year's *Swann Galleries'* auction.
2. The family of the estate from whom the photograph was probably purchased were not members of Lizzie's church for at least two prior generations. A group picture of this sort would suggest a local church missionary or fruit and flower society endeavor, which is not in evidence.
3. None of the ladies have been identified nor have copies of the photograph surfaced in other Fall River estates, suggesting that the photograph may have been taken elsewhere and transported to Fall River.
4. Speaking as an archivist for many years, a photograph, recording or document cannot be authenticated and/or verified without documentary evidence, sourced research or first-hand testimony. Consequently, I must decline authentication.

Now, what do you think?

The Edmund Lester Pearson/Frank Warren Knowlton Correspondence

PART II

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 FIFTH AVENUE

New York, July 30, 1923

Dear Knowlton,- It is possible that you remember, but probable that you have forgotten one Edmund Pearson, who sat at your table in Memorial Hall, and used to talk with you about the Borden case. I am that same man, and still interested in that case, next to the trial of Professor Webster, it is Massachusetts' greatest murder case.

I am writing for The Macmillan Company, which publishes my books, a volume to contain some five or six essays of considerable length about certain extraordinary American murder trials or cases. One of them is finished; on another, the trials of Thomas Bram in Boston, I am now working, and have ~~consulted~~ the stenographic reports of both trials, thanks to Mr. Asa French and Mr. Boyd Jones, who were on opposite sides in the second trial. Newspaper reports are not sufficient for my purpose, as I am trying to give a more correct account than they furnish. In short, I am trying to do what is done by British writers on these subjects: to give an authoritative brief history of each case, not deal with them as the average writer for the Sunday newspaper would do. When I say brief, I do not mean a mere sketch; the essays will run to about ten to twelve thousand words apiece, but they are not, of course, complete reports of the trials. I have the only book, so far as I know, ever published on the Borden case; it is by Porter of the Fall River Globe, it is out of print and scarce. I have heard that the Borden estate bought it up and suppressed it, as far as possible. I am also planning to go to Fall River to learn what I can there.

What I wish, of course, is to get reports of the testimony and arguments in the preliminary hearing at Fall River, as well as in the trial itself. If it is possible, and if you feel willing to do this, will you lend me for my use here in New York, such ~~records~~ reports as belong to your father's estate, from his participation in these trials? If this is not possible, or agreeable to you in any way, can

2

you put me in the way of obtaining the records elsewhere? The case must go in the book; its peculiar nature, the interest it aroused then still exists, I find, in many quarters; the distinguished counsel engaged; the peculiar rulings of the court; all these make it plain that Miss Borden is my prima donna.

I may add that I am a writer of ~~some~~ years of experience, with some knowledge of how to work with material like this, and that I am also a librarian (Editor of Publications at this Library) and hence a safe man to be trusted with valuable books. All this is to lead you to take judicial notice of the fact that I am not a yellow journalist.

Any information which you can give me re. the Borden case will be most gratefully received. And your Petitioner will ever pray.

Faithfully yours

Edmund Lester Pearson
Edmund Lester Pearson

(Editor's note: We continue the premiere publication of the Knowlton/Pearson correspondence, courtesy of the "Fall River Historical Society." Please see the last issue for the introduction and the complete explanation.)

Letter Number 8:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

STANLEY P. HALL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ASSISTANTS

EDWARD T. MURPHY, FALL RIVER
JOSEPH A. GAUTHIER, NEW BEDFORD

TAUNTON, Massachusetts

August 4, 1923

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Frank:

I have your letter of Aug. 1st in reference to the report at the inquest in the Lizzie A. Borden case. The records that were turned over to me when I took office did not go back as far as 1893, but I am writing to Mr. Kenney to see if he can give

any clue. Mr. Borden, the clerk, is out of town today, but I will also inquire of him.

I should like to find the same because I should be very much interested in reading them myself as well as letting your friend inspect them. I will let you know the result of what Mr. Kenney and Mr. Borden say.

Very truly yours,
Stanley P. Hall

Letter Number 9:

OTIS SEABURY COOK
MORRIS R. BROWNELL
FREDERIC H. TABER

COOK, BROWNELL & TABER
Counselors At Law
MASONIC BUILDING
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

August 6, 1923.

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
30 State Street,
Boston.

Dear Frank: -

Such papers as I have found in the Lizzie Borden case perhaps will not be useful for the purpose of your friend who is writing up cases, but I am going to send you the whole bunch by express. You may as well keep them or destroy them as you think best. I do not seem to find any court papers or testimony transcribed. There are a number of letters from theorists.

I have also the photographs showing the Borden house and the ruins of Mr. and Mrs. Borden with the marks of the hatchet, etc. If you want these, I shall send them at another time.

I guess that these are all the papers that we have had. I don't remember seeing any others.

These papers were in a tin box by themselves and have been there for years stowed away in our old files.

I hope that you are having a pleasant summer and getting a chance to take some rest and exercise which will be beneficial. I hope that you won't overdo. Perhaps you know how to take care of yourself and don't need my advice.

Your mother was in the office a few days ago and said that you had played eighteen holes. I think that I haven't played so many as that all together since John died. He and I used to practice a little in the old days, and I still miss him in a good many ways.

Please give my regards to Mr. Choate.

Faithfully yours,
O.S. Cook

OSC/ELJ

Letter Number 10:

August 16, 1923.

Edmund L. Pearson, Esq.,
The New York Public Library,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Pearson:

Your letter of the 3d came while I was on a vacation and from which I have just returned for simply a day. I have not yet put my hand on the inquest testimony. I am still following trails which may lead to it. I have, however, received a large bunch of files consisting principally of correspondence passing among the prosecuting attorneys and hundreds of letters from cranks and others which are rather amusing and interesting. The only thing of importance that I

have seen among them yet is a memorandum in William H. Moody's handwriting with the pages cited of the points valuable for the prosecution which they had relied upon to prove by the inquest testimony and without which they would not be able to establish. If we get the inquest testimony, this may be of some interest to you to show the importance placed upon it by the prosecuting attorneys.

I judge from your letter that you are not going to start active work until around the first of September. I shall be back then and will see if I have anything more by that time.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 11:

August 16, 1923.

Michael J. Orpen, Esq.,
Clerk, 2d District Court of Bristol,
Fall River, Mass.

Dear Mr. Orpen:

Your letter of August 4 came while I was on my vacation and it has just come to my attention.

Thank you very much indeed for your suggestion. I have written to Mr. Kenney to find out about the old files and I shall write to Mr. Borden to see whether it may be filed in the Superior Court.

I have Porter's book and so has my friend. I also have access to the original stenographic report of the trial itself at the office of the Attorney General.

However, I thank you very much for your interest in the matter and your very kind letter.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 12:

August 16, 1923.

Stanley P. Hall, Esq.,
District Attorney
Southern District,
Taunton, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of August 4, which came while I was on my vacation and which I have just seen.

I think Mr. Kenney is at present on a vacation, but if you get any clues to the

old files I should be very glad to know of them.

I shall write to Simeon Borden myself so that you need not bother with that source.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 13:

August 16, 1923.

Simeon Borden, Esq.,
Clerk of Courts,
Taunton, Mass.

Dear Sim:

An author friend of mine who is making a study of the Lizzie A. Borden case has inquired of me where he can see the original inquest testimony which was offered in the Superior Court and excluded. Can you give me any light as to where I might be able to get hold of it? Possibly it may have gotten into your old files. Any help that you can give me I shall be very glad to have.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 14:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

STANLEY P. HALL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ASSISTANTS
EDWARD T. MURPHY, FALL RIVER
JOSEPH A. GAUTHIER, NEW BEDFORD

TAUNTON August 17th.
1923

Frank Knowlton, Esq.,
30 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Knowlton:

Mr. Kenney has written me he has no record of any sort, or any papers, in the Lizzie Borden case. I saw Mr. Borden today, who has just written you. I regret that I have not been able to help you more on this matter.

Yours very truly,
Stanley P. Hall

SPH:AW

Letter Number 15:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Bristol County.
Office of Clerk of the Courts.

Taunton, August 17, 1923

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
Attorney at Law,
Boston, Mass.

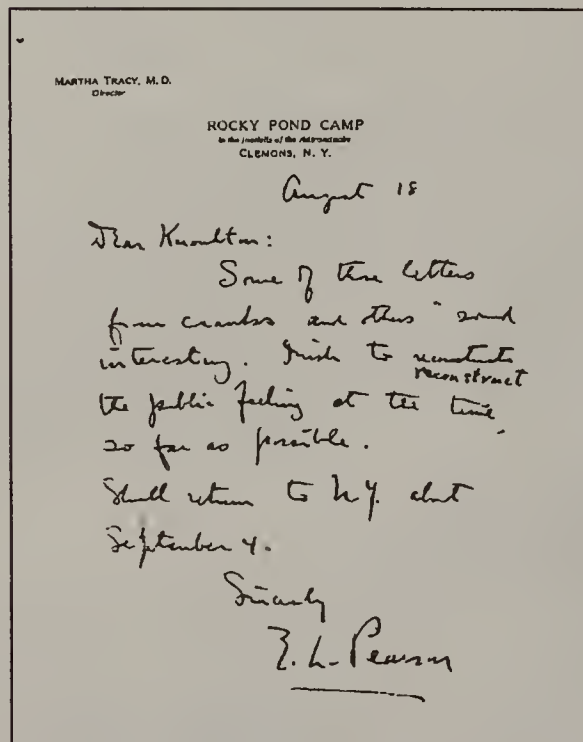
Dear Frank:-

We have made careful search in the files and in several other places for the testimony taken at the inquest in the Elizabeth Borden case, and are unable to find the same. It was probably in the hands of the Commonwealth at the time of the trial, and I would suggest that you write to the Police Department of Fall River. If there is anything more we can do relative to getting track of this testimony, please let us know.

I expect to see you with us, next month.

Yours truly,
Simeon Borden
Clerk.

Letter Number 16:



Handwritten note from Mr. Pearson to Mr. Knowlton. See transcription below.

August 18 (1923)

Dear Knowlton:

Some of these letters from "cranks and others" sound interesting. I wish to reconstruct the public feeling at the time, so far as possible.

Shall return to N.Y. about September 4.

Sincerely,
E.L. Pearson

Letter Number 17:

HURLBURT, JONES & HALL
530 EXCHANGE BUILDING
53 STATE STREET

Henry F. Hurlburt
Boyd B. Jones
Damon E. Hall
Henry F. Hurlburt, Jr.
Philip N. Jones
Francis P. Garland
Goldmann Edmunds
Albert W. Rockwood
Herbert U. Smith
Frank D. Healy
Arthur B. Tyler
Gordon W. Phelps
Benjamin C. Perkins

TELEPHONE: MAIN 6447

Boston Sept. 17, 1923

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
30 State St.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Knowlton:

I enclose herewith letter from Judge Carleton which is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,
B.B. Jones

(Enclosure)

Letter Number 18:

OTIS J. CARLTON
83 MERRIMACK STREET
HAVERHILL, - MASS.

September 15, 1923.

Boyd B. Jones, Esq.,
530 Exchange Bldg.,
53 State St.
Boston.

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have your favor of the 14th and shall be very glad to look over the Moody papers in an endeavor to find the testimony of Lizzie Borden before the coroner for the use of Mr. Knowlton. Mr. Moody's papers are in eight or ten large wooden boxes so Mr. Knowlton will appreciate that it will require some time to go through them but you can assure him that I will attend to the matter as promptly as possible.

Very truly yours,
Otis J. Carlton

Letter Number 19:

September 18, 1923.

Boyd B. Jones, Esq.,
530 Exchange Building,
53 State Street, Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you very much for your letter from

Judge Carlton. I have written to him directly.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 20:

September 18 1923.

Hon. Otis J. Carlton,
83 Merrimack Street,
Haverhill Mass.

Dear Judge Carlton:

Mr. Jones has forwarded to me your very kind letter of September 15.

I hesitate very much to ask you to go through Mr. Moody's papers unless they happen to be so segregated in envelopes or folders as to make it comparatively simple. Please do not go to too much trouble about this, although for the sake of posterity I think that some day the inquest testimony ought to be located.

I have gone through all my father's papers and I do not find it. I do find, however, in his papers six or eight sheets of foolscap in Mr. Moody's handwriting in which he has summarized the inquest testimony very briefly, with the page numbers of the stenographic report against the references in an endeavor to stipulate the points which the prosecuting officers had relied upon the inquest evidence to prove and which would be lost if it were not admitted. It is this paper largely and the care that Mr. Moody took in summarizing it which makes me think it might possibly be among his papers. If, without too much trouble, you can make a brief search, I should be very glad.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 21:

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 FIFTH AVENUE

New York October 3, 1923

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.
c/o Choate, Hall and Stewart
30 State Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Knowlton:

I am writing to-day to Mr. Louis Freeze to arrange about borrowing the report of the Borden trial, as a result of your kindness in interviewing him on the subject.

Owing to a great deal of other work, I have not been able yet to get the Bram case finished, but I need the Borden record now so that I can read it over and familiarize myself again with its points before I go over to Fall River. I intend to go there sometime in the last two weeks of this month, but am not sure of the date yet.

If you have any of those files of correspondence or records or photographs which you are willing to let me use, I shall be glad to have them as soon as convenient to yourself. I may also ask you, before I go to Fall River, if you will kindly give me letters to Messrs. John W. Cummings and Milton Reed, whom you mention as advisable to see.

I appreciate the fact that I am putting you to a good deal of trouble and that you have already been most kind in this matter. I shall come in to thank you personally and have a talk on my way through Boston to Newburyport.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Edmund L. Pearson

HW

Letter Number 22:

October 3, 1923.

Mr. Edmund L. Pearson,
New York Public Library,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Pearson:

I am glad to enclose the letters to Mr. Cummings and Mr. Reed.

The correspondence and photographs are at home. I have got them together and will send them to you in the course of a few days - as soon as I get the time to do them up.

I am sorry to tell you that my efforts to locate the inquest testimony are futile. I am coming to believe that it was either purposely delivered to Miss Borden's counsel or destroyed so that it would not become public. However, in Fall River at the Public Library you will find a complete file of the Fall River papers as far back as the time of the inquest, and I am told by Fall River people that doubtless it will be reported there almost stenographically. You will also find among the papers which I am going to send to you five or six sheets of foolscap, in Mr. Moody's handwriting, in which he has enumerated the important points established

by Lizzie Borden's testimony at the inquest, upon which a great deal depended and which they lost the benefit of when the evidence was excluded, and with some notes in my father's handwriting of how they could still establish a few of the points in spite of the exclusion.

If you have any difficulty about getting the record from Mr. Freeze, let me know.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 23:

October 4, 1923.

John W. Cummings, Esq.,
56 North Main Street,
Fall River, Mass.

Dear Mr. Cummings:

I am glad to introduce to you by this letter my friend, Edmund L. Pearson of New York.

Mr. Pearson is engaged in a task that I envy him very much - that of making a study of the famous case of Commonwealth v. Lizzie A. Borden and preparing for publication an essay on the case.

I have told Mr. Pearson that I knew you would be glad to give him any assistance that you could and I am so interested in his work that I shall personally feel grateful to you for any assistance you can give to Mr. Pearson.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

This letter sent to Milton Reed, Esq., Fall River, Mass.

Letter Number 24:

October 9, 1923.

Mr. Edmund L. Pearson,
The New York Public Library,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Pearson:

I am sending you today by express a considerable assortment of papers in the matter of Commonwealth v. Lizzie A. Borden. A great deal of these will be of no particular use to you as I have not attempted to go through them and sort them out. Of course you appreciate that these files have been kept more or less confidential and while I do not know that there is anything in them which is of particularly private

nature, I have not been through them enough to have any judgment on it. If there is anything which seems to you to be more or less private and confidential, I am going to ask you to exercise your discretion in the matter and preserve the confidence. Ultimately, when you have entirely finished with them I should, of course, be glad to have them back, but not until you have wholly finished with them.

I hope you have been successful in getting the record of the trial from Mr. Freeze.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 25:

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, October 10

Dear Knowlton, -

The package came o.k. today, and I shall take it home tonight, and revel - and wallow - in its contents. Thank you. I will take great care about its use in any public way, and consult you where there seems to be the slightest doubt of its advisability.

I have not heard from Mr. Freeze yet, in any way, but I think it probable that this means that the books are on the way. If I do not hear in a few days, I may write you, and ask if you would think it wise to call him up by 'phone and see if there is any hitch.

Sincerely yours
E.L. Pearson

Letter Number 26:

October 11, 1923.

Mr. Edmund L. Pearson,
The New York Public Library,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

My dear Pearson:

I called Mr. Freeze on the telephone this morning. He told me that he had taken the matter up with the Attorney General and had obtained his permission to send the testimony on to you and that as soon as he could get it adequately packed he would ship it on. He moves rather slowly, although you can rely on him, but if you do not receive the testimony in the course of a week, let me know and I will prod him again.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

(For now we must postpone more of this most interesting correspondence until the next issue. For the budding author three things jump to mind: the time-waiting ordeal, the quest for assistance and the search for material.)

FALL RIVER

by Rob Lewis

The city known today as Fall River, Massachusetts, considered until 1803 to be a part of Freetown and until 1862 to be partially contained within the boundaries of Rhode Island, came into its own as a great industrial city in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The massive power of the Quequechan River fueled several mills, and Fall River granite provided the basis for a developing stone-cutting business. Over the years, the city's numerous villages have been home to many hard-working and loyal residents.

These residents historically have much to be proud of in many ways. Fall River led the region in the development of technology and public education. By the 1880s, the city was equipped with telephones, streetcars, and electrical service, and the B.M.C. Durfee High School - opened in 1886 - was considered the finest in the nation.

Through the photographs and in informative captions in this marvelous new visual history, local author Rob Lewis seeks to remind residents of Fall River's glorious past; his work also suggests the future potential of this significant American city as we approach the millennium.

Author Rob Lewis is a Fall River native who now lives in Newport, Rhode Island. He is a professional photographer whose other two books in the Images of America series - *Newport* and *Aquidneck Island* - have delighted residents and tourists alike. In this volume, a tribute to the city of his birth, Lewis evokes memories of a past long gone that will certainly be remembered for generations to come. Published in 1997.

Taste Of Honey
Bookstore

1755 N Main Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
Telephone Number (508) 679-8844

FALL RIVER - A New Book by Rob Lewis - Buy It Here!

This 128-page soft-cover book with 200 black and white photographs is now available! Contains *Lizzie Borden* material and is one of the *Images of America* series. The price is only \$ 16.99, plus \$ 2.00 shipping and handling for the first copy and 50¢ for additional books. Massachusetts residents please add 85¢ state tax.

The Second Borden Trial

(Continued from Page 1)

The 12-man working-class jury was not about to hang (and that's what would have happened) an upper class, white Anglo-Saxon member of the *Women's Christian Temperance Union* that came into court each day on the arm of her minister. And I don't think the 750 members of the Stanford Law School Alumni, faculty and students were going to let their new Judge John Crown Professor go down in defeat before her most illustrious peers and at the hands of a man from Harvard. As Gertrude Stein might have said, Justice is Justice is Justice.

As in 1893, the defense did the best they could with what they had. After the judges dismissed the famous prussic acid testimony and all of Lizzie's Inquest testimony, Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., of Harvard Law School, went with the remaining circumstantial evidence. And it is not weak evidence. Lizzie was one of two people at the scene, and the only one who had motive and access. Ogletree is also a member of The Stanford University Board of Trustees. We should keep in mind that the possibility of this trial being an inside job still lingers. Ogletree certainly presented his evidence well, with one small technical error. He produced the skull (not the real one) of Andrew Borden and said it had received eleven blows to the back part. He had the number correct, but the actual blows came down through the front right side. In fact, one of the blows, perhaps the first, cut Andrew's right eyeball loose from the skull. Overall, his prosecution was excellent, and also not without humor. Following the defense's closing argument he picked up on Babcock's use of rhyme and said, "what could the defense say next, 'If the hat don't fit, you must acquit.'" Ogletree tried to override the strong Reasonable Doubt argument by the defense with his evidence and strong attack on the defense's use of the gender issue. His conclusion was classic courtroom drama. He appealed to the jury's wisdom by reciting the old story of the cocky young man and the wise old woman. The young man has his hands behind his back and he tells the wise old woman he has a bird in his hand; he asks her if the bird is dead or alive, knowing if she says dead he can release it and if she says alive he can crush it. As with the old woman, Professor Ogletree's last line was, "the bird is in your hand(s)." Indeed it was, and Ogletree did not have another bird in the bush.

Kathleen M. Sullivan, (a relative of Bridget?), Stanley Morrison Professor of Law, Stanford Law School, was the narrator and also played foreman of the jury. Her narration was excellent as she brought the audience up to date on the events of August 4, 1892. She also depicted the society of late nineteenth-century Fall River. Her information was accurate and concise, but she too was caught in a moment of mirth. When Judge Rehnquist asked her if the jury had reached a unanimous verdict, someone in the audience yelled out "No." Rehnquist paused and smiled. Moments like this kept this show in perspective. The other players performed well also.

The experience of playing Lizzie Borden before the highest ranking jurists in the land must have affected Julia Wilson, a law school senior. Most lawyers go through their whole careers without facing the likes of Rehnquist and O'Connor. Yet she carried herself well and projected her lines with strength and determination. Cara Robertson, Stanford Law '97, played Emma Borden, Lizzie's older sister. In comparison, Emma had little

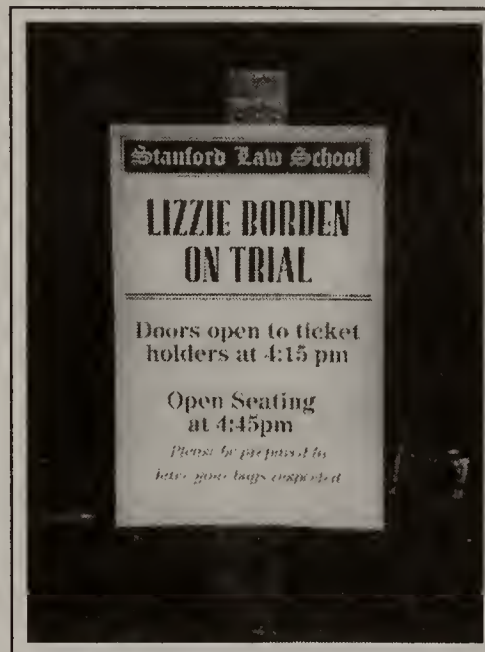
education. Robertson has a doctorate in English from Oxford and a BA in History and Literature and Women's Studies from Harvard. Last year she published *Representing 'Miss Lizzie': Cultural Convictions in the Trial of Lizzie Borden* in the Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities, 8:351. She probably knows Emma better than Emma knew Emma. And her language was



The Mock-Trial was held in the Dinkelspiel Auditorium

(One of the signs is enlarged below)

Photographs reproduced courtesy of Jules Ryckebusch



down to earth. When asked about the episode where Lizzie burned a dress in the kitchen stove, Robertson, rephrasing Emma, said, "I said, do it -- just do it." Janet Cooper Alexander, another Stanford Law Professor, played Bridget Sullivan, the Borden's maid. She was direct and strong, reflecting the tough nature of the Irish girls who came to this country in their late teens to work as domestic servants and factory laborers.

Alexander did not fake an Irish brogue and got a good laugh when Ogletree asked her if she was from Ireland. She said, "can't you tell by my accent." The other actors, all law professors, played their roles well. And that's what lawyers and actors do. A court is a theater. A trial is a dramatization. A jury is made up of critics. We recently witnessed the O.J. Simpson trial -- the first murder trial to be telecast in its entirety, and each day's performance was reviewed in the print media. At one point the L.A. District Attorney raised the question of whether or not to charge *Court TV* for what was clearly the best show in town. Lizzie's first trial was the best show in town and telegraph booths set up in the stable behind the New Bedford Superior Court broadcast the day's events around the country, Canada and Europe. In 1992, Bristol Community College in Fall River hosted a three-day conference on the 100th anniversary of the killings. About 900 scholars, experts and actual descendants of the original cast attended (they included the grandsons of Dr. Dolan, Hosea Knowlton, and Andrew J. Jennings, and the great granddaughter of Marshal Fleet). I

chaired the conference, which also had a reenactment of the trial and inquest, and I am still amazed at the amount of press coverage we received. Lizzie, as we saw at Stanford on Sept. 16, is still the best show in town. There have been several plays based on Lizzie's story, an opera and a ballet. It is safe to assume that her trial will be replayed again, but with such a cast? Of that I have a strong reasonable doubt.

After her trial, Lizzie went on living in Fall River, albeit in a nicer neighborhood and in a bigger house. She continued to undergo a lot of public scrutiny, especially after being accused of shop-lifting in Providence, R. I. Seven years after the trial she had a falling out with Emma and they never saw or spoke to each other again. Some think that her close friendship with the actress Nance O'Neil caused Emma to leave Maplecroft. Lizzie did like the theater, actors and actresses. And she seemed to enjoy much of the attention she attracted. I'd like to imagine the ghost of Lizzie sitting in the back of Dinkelspiel Auditorium. Her hand is resting on the arm of her friend and minister, Reverend Buck, as she leans over and whispers in his ear, "Wasn't it so nice of them all to come."

LIZBITS

(Continued from Page 5)

There are as many as forty-one Buffintons listed in the 1892 City Directory.

James Buffinton is remembered for his compassion during an outbreak of cholera in Fall River in the first year of his incumbency, and for his kindness to soldiers in the Civil War. Prior to his term as Mayor, he was elected Chief Fire Warden in 1852 and served the city as Selectman 1851-1853. He resigned as Mayor in the middle of his second term upon his election to the United States House of Representatives. When a call for troops to suppress the Rebellion was made, Mr. Buffinton was among the first to respond. At the age of forty-four he enlisted as a Private and drilled and marched with the Fall River company, disdaining the offer of a higher post. In 1862 he was discharged by order of the Secretary of War so that he could resume his seat in Congress, where he served with distinction for many years.

His name is given as Buffinton in the City Directories, but is noted as Buffington in the *Phillips History of Fall River*. Which brings us to Edward P. Buffinton, (1814-1877) who lived at 64 Second Street (later changed to 90), next door north of the Borden house.

Mr. Buffinton, also a provision dealer, was active in public affairs as Alderman and Mayor. He was the father of Adelaide Churchill who played so large a part in the Borden saga.

Edward P. Buffinton (1814-1877) was elected Mayor for the unexpired term of 1855 and the following year, but was defeated in the next three annual elections, to be reelected again for the terms of 1860 to 1865.

History books have little to say about the doings of this man, aside from the details of his elections and praise for his splendid character. However, he is the man who guided Fall River through the exigencies of the Civil War and prepared its people for the flourishing of industry in subsequent years.

His daughter Adelaide was born in 1850. She was about the same age as Emma Borden and ten years older than Lizzie. She

said she had known the Borden family next door for twenty years.

Adelaide Buffinton married Charles H. Churchill, an employee of the Water Department. Mr. Churchill died in 1879. Adelaide occupied the house on Second Street until her death in 1926. Before the court, she testified she was a resident of Fall River for more than 43 years and had spent most of her life in the Buffinton house.

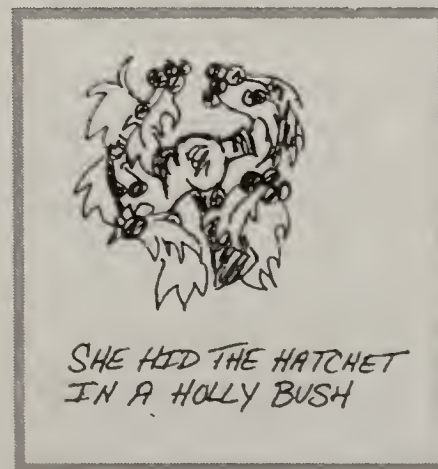
She also said that her household consisted of her mother, sister, son, and a niece. While the 1892 City Directory does not list these relatives, it does list three people as boarders at that address; a theater manager, a teacher, and a paper hanger. Adelaide's mother, Comfort, resided in the house until she died in 1899.

The Buffinton House, now renumbered to 216 Second Street, was destroyed by fire on June 1, 1961. At the time it was called the Mildred Winslow House.

PRINCESS MAPLECROFT



DECEMBER 1893. LIZZIE AND EMMA FIND THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE. THEN LIZZIE SUDDENLY REMEMBERS... WHY THEY CAN'T CUT DOWN THE TREE



SHE HID THE HATCHET IN A HOLLY BUSH

©1998 Mary T. Cusack



Ho, Hum... SAME OLD STORY.
Rich, abusive father. Uncaring stepmother.
And a daughter WIELDING AN AX.
...or did she???

A century ago, on August 4 of 1892, in an unassuming house at 92 Second Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, 32 year old Lizzie Borden was accused of the brutal murders of her father and stepmother. But did she? Does the evidence really point straight at Miss Lizzie, or was the real perpetrator overlooked in the aftermath of confusion and emotions? Come decide for yourself in the house where the unimaginable happened. Relax in the beautifully restored Victorian setting - open a book in the sitting room and gaze about at the actual scene of which you are reading; go into the front parlor and watch the documentaries and movies made of the crime; then tour the home from basement to attic, hear the myths and learn the facts. Relax in your chosen bedroom... will the truth be whispered to you in your dreams?

Are you tired of the same old Valentine's Day hearts and flowers? Come spend the night in Victorian luxury at an inn right out of the history pages. If it is your desire for an all new getaway experience, we promise you won't be disappointed. Our professional staff will make your stay one to always remember.

For information/reservations call 508-675-7333 & E-mail Lizziebnb@earthlink.net
The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast & Museum & 92 Second Street & Fall River, MA 02721

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
 COLLECTION

FEB 23 1998

University of Massachusetts
 Depository Copy

**Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Fall River, MA
 Permit No. 140**

Make check or money order payable to the

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

For new subscribers either remove the label and write your name and address or just write to us with the same information. Please include your check or money order.

Mail to:

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

Mr. Jules Ryckebusch - Publisher
 Bristol Community College
 777 Elsbree Street
 Fall River MA 02720-7391

If your label says - **Remaining Issues: 0** - Renew your subscription now!

Cut-out or duplicate coupon and mail today! Your Choice!

U.S.A. → 1 Year \$14.00 2 Years \$ 24.00

Non U.S.A. → 1 Year \$20.00 2 Years \$ 32.00

Affix mailing label here.



THE

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

Volume V, Number 2

\$4.00

April, 1998

Lizzie on the World Wide Web:

THE ONLINE LIZZIE BORDEN

By Nancy A.F. McNelly

(Editor's note: It is indeed a pleasure to welcome Ms. McNelly to these pages. Not only are her academic and professional credentials most impressive, but she is a computer expert as well, being an experienced and creative "Webmaster." For those not familiar with this term, it is reserved for those professionals who can create "Web Pages" on the World Wide Web in the "Internet Zone" of today's electronic superhighway.

Ms. McNelly earned a BA in Biology from Boston University, an MA in Anatomy from Boston University School of Medicine, and has had 25 years experience as Research Anatomist in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Boston University School of Medicine. She has 30 years of residence in the Cambridgeport section of Cambridge, a most likely setting I would say.

In this issue, Ms. McNelly will take us to that never-never land of virtual reality and demonstrate how Miss Emma Borden's Second Street bedroom can be virtually recreated with state-of-the-art computer technology ... enjoy ...)

Last summer I found myself sitting in the middle of a sofa, the cushions on either side of me occupied by as many books about the Borden case as I had been able to lay hands on. Like so many others, I had a host of little mysteries to solve, but



Take a Walk Through the Borden Place

Want to try to solve a mystery?

2D floorplans

3D reconstructions

Other Borden Resources

First, here are the floorplans, which show the doors that the Bordens' habitually kept locked and other salient features:

The First Floor
The Second Floor
The Basement
The Attic
The Barn
The Entire Lot



The Virtual Lizzie Borden House

The beginning of Ms. McNelly's virtual Borden house recreation located at the following address on the World Wide Web: <http://www.halfmoon.org/borden/download.html>

© 1996-1997 N.A.F. McNelly

my mysteries weren't the usual ones. Yes, certainly, it would be very interesting to know the contents of that little note Dr. Bowen pieced together on the kitchen table. And, yes, it seems very unlikely that the women of such a parsimonious household would be in the habit of burning old dresses in the kitchen stove in those pre-paper towel days. But what color was the kitchen wallpaper?

I didn't really intend to turn myself into a Borden sleuth. By profession I'm a Research Anatomist at Boston University School of Medicine, where I spend my time working on the prenatal development of lungs. By avocation, I'm a student of Mayan hieroglyphics and a computer enthusiast.

My affection for computers started back in my undergraduate days, when I first learned how to write a program that taught an old IBM mainframe to play blackjack. My interest in learning Mayan hieroglyphics was a result of my travels in Mexico and Central America. It was the Internet, or more specifically the World Wide Web, that gave me a way to combine both interests. Over time, my little web site explaining a bit about how written Mayan works, grew ever larger and surprisingly more successful until it came to require its own domain, halfmoon.org. Part of the expansion was due to the addition of virtual

reality recreations of Mayan structures that visitors could enter and explore.

As much as I loved the process of construction, there came times when I wanted to do something different than pyramids. It was during one such period that I saw the Glimmerglass Opera's performance of Jack Beeson's Lizzie Borden, and came away with an inspiration. I was going to build Lizzie's house.

I already had some Lizzie-philia in my past, starting with the influence of my uncle, Bill Filbrun, who liked to play Michael Brown's Fall River Hoedown for my brothers and myself when we were children.

(Continued on Page 15)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

A Different Menu:

On The Table This Issue:

- Lizzie on the World Wide Web: The Online Lizzie Borden Page 1.
by Nancy A.F. McNelly
- Lizzie, Yes - Lizzie, No Page 3.
- A Glimpse of Nance O'Neil Page 6.
- The Edmund Pearson/Frank Knowlton Correspondence Page 7.
PART III
- Lizzie Borden and O.J. Simpson Page 8.
by Glenn Allen
- The Ballad of O.J. Simpson Page 10.
- O.J. According to Dr. Seuss Page 10.
- Borden and Ramsey Cases Page 11.
by Denise Noe
- Known Films of Nance O'Neil Page 11.
Mostly compiled *by Judy Curry*
- The Sound of Abby Page 12.
by Kathleen Troost
- A Tale of Two Pictures Page 13.

Standard Fare:



- BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN Page 4.
by Lisa Zawadzki
- LIZBITS Page 5.
by Neilson Caplain
- PRINCESS MAPLECROFT Page 6.
by Mary T. Cusack

MISS LIZBETH BORDEN'S EDITOR SPEAKS

Did you hear about the manuscript discovered in a 1990 estate sale and written by an unnamed lady who solves the Borden-hatchet murder case? Hang on just a minute, I'm only fooling. April Fool!!! But there is a new book off the presses in graphic art format that presupposes just such an event. Lisa Zawadzki tells us about it in the *Bibliographic Borden* and the *Fall River Historical Society's* advertisement on page 14 tells us how to get a copy.

Next, the mystery of the group photograph in which Miss Lizzie Borden may or may not be included has been solved. Please see *Lizzie, Yes - Lizzie, No* on the next page for the answer.

And, lest we forget, please check the mailing label on the last page. If you see **Remaining Issues: 0**, please renew your subscription. We save money by not mailing expiration notices. Your cooperation is requested. Renew your subscription today!

Maynard F. Bertolet

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

Volume V, Number 2, April, 1998

Publisher Jules R. Ryckebusch
Editor Maynard F. Bertolet
Copy Editor Jeannine H. Bertolet
Design and Layout Maynard F. Bertolet
Photographer Jeannine H. Bertolet

Staff Contributors:

Neilson Caplain
Mary T. Cusack
Lisa Zawadzki

Current Issue Contributors:

Glenn Allen
Maynard F. Bertolet
Judy Curry
Nancy A.F. McNelly
Denise Noe
Eric Stedman
Kathleen Troost

Printing and Mailing:

Leary Press
234 Second Street
PO Box 1030
Fall River, MA 02721-2098

The *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* is published four times a year on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15. Distribution is by U.S. mail. Current one-year USA mail subscriptions cost \$14.00 and \$24.00 for two years. Non-USA subscriptions are \$20.00 for one year and \$32.00 for two years. The Editor reserves the right to edit and/or revise submissions, without changing intent. If possible, please submit articles on floppy disks in the IBM ASCII format. To be considered, submissions must be received 60 days prior to the publication date. In order for letters to the editor to be considered for publication, the author's name, address and telephone number must be included. Advertising rates are \$50.00 for a quarter-page, \$100.00 for a half-page and \$200.00 for a full-page.

Send all subscription payments to:

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Jules R. Ryckebusch - Publisher
Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391

Send all *LBQ* submissions,
letters to the editor and
address changes to:

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Maynard F. Bertolet - Editor
2 Blancoyd Road
Merion Station, PA 19066-1802
Telephone and Fax Numbers: (610) 664-2247
E-Mail: Bertolet@msn.com

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
(ISSN 1069-4900)

©1998 Bristol Community College
All rights reserved.

Unauthorized duplication prohibited by law.

By Maynard F. Bertolet

In the last issue, (*Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, January, 1998, Page 11) we printed a purported *Gay's Studio* group photograph of ten ladies. The owners displayed it on their Web Site and claimed that the lady on the front row, far right, was Miss Lizzie Borden. (*The Drawing Room* is located at 152-154 Spring Street in Newport, Rhode Island 02840, Telephone Number (401) 841-5060, E-Mail: drawingroom@drawrm.com, Web Page: <http://www.drawrm.com/lizzie.htm>) The portion of the picture containing the questioned Lizzie was enlarged and captioned:

"*Gay's Studio* was the most important photographic studio in Fall River in the late 19th century. The quality of the image does not come through when reproduced here. When viewed in person, it becomes immediately apparent that the photo is indeed Lizzie Borden."

The owners have since offered the photograph for sale through the *Swann Galleries, Inc.* in New York City. The price would be in the thousands of dollars. Prior to the sale, *Swann Galleries* management requested authentication from the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*. There was an agreeable difference of opinion between the Publisher and Editor and each wrote a statement capsulizing their views. The door was also opened for reader input and we promised to print subsequent pertinent information.

Well, the verdict is in, but before that, let's look at a couple of thoughtful letters sent in by our readers. The first was received by e-mail.

I have viewed the enlarged portion of this photograph on my computer, and I have to agree with Mr. Bertolet that this is not Lizzie although there is some resemblance across the eyes. The woman in the picture appears to have had a longer, narrower head and face than the Lizzie we have seen in pictures over the years. The pictured lady also had hollower cheeks, a softer chin line, a more delicate mouth, a longer, slimmer neck, narrower, thinner shoulders, and less bulk through the chest area. This person seems to have been of a more ectomorphic body type whereas pictures of Lizzie give the impression that she was more mesomorphic.

If, however, there is reason to believe Lizzie is in this picture at all, then how about the woman in the back row, far left. She is a definite Lizzie-type. Even her hairstyle is more similar to Lizzie's usual coif.

Florence J. Savery
Marion, MA

Thank you very much Ms. Savery for your thoughtful analysis. We very much appreciate your taking the time to respond.

Our next letter is from Fritz Adilz, an author with whom all *LBQ* readers are familiar. Mr. Adilz first broke into our pages in the Summer, 1994 issue with his serialized theory *An Armchair Solution to the Borden Murders*. He subsequently reappeared with a serialized update beginning in the April, 1997 issue.

The Lizzie Borden Quarterly
The Editor, Mr. Maynard F. Bertolet
2 Blancoyd Road
Merion Station, PA 19066-1802
USA

LIZZIE, YES - LIZZIE, NO

Dear Mr. Editor:

There is undoubtedly a likeness between the lady on the photo and Miss Lizzie Borden. However there are also differences. These are, as far as I can see:

- The lady on the photo has her hair done up in a different way from Miss Lizzie. All the pictures I have seen of Miss Lizzie show that she had her hair parted in the middle over her forehead, which this lady has not.
- The lady on the photo lacks Miss Lizzie's full, slightly protruding lips.
- The lady on the photo seems to have a dimple on her chin, which Miss Borden had not. However, this last discrepancy is probably an illusion.

All in all, my vote is for Lizzie, no!

Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation (for) so many interesting articles and other material.

Sincerely
Fritz Adilz
Stockholm, Sweden

P.S. I am waiting - not in vain, I hope - for that final judgment from the readership.

Yes Fritz, I am happy to say we do have a final judgement and both you and Ms. Savery are entirely correct.



Lizzie, Yes - Lizzie, No

(Continued on Page 13)

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers! Do I have a swell batch of books for you this issue. I hope everyone has been keeping up on their reading. (Lizzie-related or otherwise-that's the librarian in me talking.) Nothing like a nice Borden book you haven't read yet for these cold winter nights. So, let's get started!

Geary, Rick:

The Borden Tragedy:

A Memoir of the Infamous Double Murder
at Fall River, Mass. 1892
New York: NBN, 1997

Wowee! A Borden graphic novel, and a darned good one at that. For those of you who are wondering what a graphic novel is, it's a sort of grown-up comic book. It has the same format as a comic, but with a mature and often serious storyline. For example, Art Spiegelman's *Maus*, about the Holocaust, has won several prestigious awards. These are not the "funny books" remembered from childhood; rather they are a valid and interesting form of literature.

The story was told from the point of view of an unnamed woman who was friendly with Lizzie. In the introduction, Geary stated that the account was taken from the "unpublished memoirs of a (thus far) unknown lady of Fall River" whose manuscript "came to light at a 1990 estate sale". I am not sure if this is a true statement or not, having never heard of such a find. I would think that such an event would have been in the local newspapers, but don't remember hearing of it.

Geary retold the events of the case in a highly readable way. The scholarship was first-rate, providing many of the small details that other authors overlook. The author/artist pointed the finger of blame at no one, but noted several people who were not good suspects. The list of unanswered questions was also thought-provoking. A short bibliography of familiar books was given. The back cover compared the similarities of the Borden and O.J. Simpson cases.

I liked the artwork very much. It was a nice break from the often dry and dull works about the murders. The drawings of the layout of the house were the best I've ever seen. Their clarity gave me better insight into the perplexing arrangement of that often-described home. Borden fans should enjoy this book immensely.

Reach, James.

The Myth of Lizzie Borden

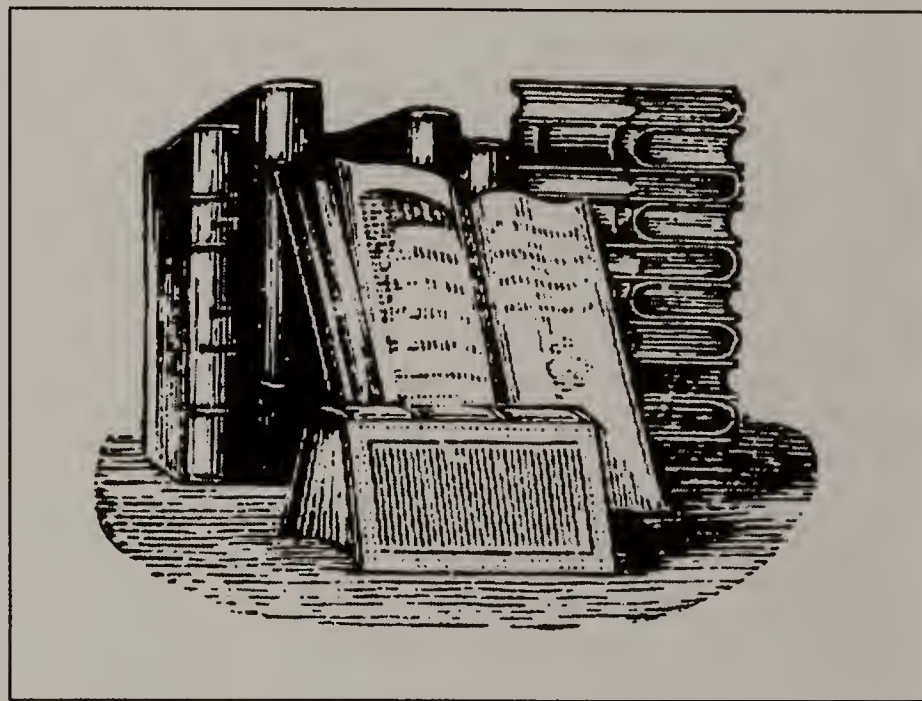
In *The Quality of Murder*
New York: E.P. Dutton & Company, 1962
Pages 57-65

A nice little essay that examined the continuing fascination with the Borden murders. Reach was strongly convinced by the then just-published *Lizzie Borden: The Untold Story* by Radin. Like Radin, he took Pearson to task for his biases and reviewed the prosecution's weaknesses. Others, like Dorothy Parker, who remained unconvinced, were seen as making an idol of Lizzie.

Reach felt that three elements had kept the Borden murders in the public mind. First was the background and character of the

people involved. The Borden murders did have a great cast. Second was the "unusually large number of bizarre touches to the case itself". Items such as the burnt dress, mutton soup, and locked doors only add to the fascination. And the third reason was the writings of Edmund Pearson resurrecting the case in the 1920's and '30's.

The final reason given, almost as an afterthought, was perhaps the strongest. Reach stated that the Borden case was just "artistically right." By this he meant that all the elements of great drama and mystery were present in this event. I think he was right. It is because of this occurrence that we all continue to be fascinated.



Berger, Meyer

The Lizzie Borden Case

New York Times Magazine
(August 9, 1942)
Pages 10, 26-27

This article was a fifty-year anniversary piece. The murders, trial and Lizzie's later life were discussed. I thought it was nice that Berger referred to her as "Lizbeth", the name she chose for herself later in life.

While not really inaccurate, Berger took some artistic liberty in setting the scene. He told of Bridget "sullenly" getting breakfast and frequently alluded to the heat of the day. His descriptions could be quite funny. Andrew Borden's beard was described as framing his thin face "like a howler monkey's".

Berger did make a noteworthy mention of Lizzie's "queer moods" twice. Not much was ever made of this information until Victoria Lincoln used it for her literary diagnosis twenty-five years later. He did not portray these moods as any sort of mental or physical illness, however. Lizzie was said only to be "habitually moody". The great illustration of Lizzie fainting in court was included.

That's all for now. See you in the next issue.

by Neilson Caplain

A TALE OF TWO WOMEN AND A MAN

(A Comparison of two famous Fall River Murders)

(Editor's note: Once more Mr. Caplain distinguishes himself and amazes your editor with his collateral knowledge about things pertaining to Fall River. His article this month is no exception. And, since in this issue, we are making O.J. and JonBenet Ramsey comparisons to the Borden case, why not go back more than 150 years and make another comparison? Oh yes, Mr. Caplain requested that I mention that some of his research material was not immediately available and that he had to depend on memory and, more importantly, refreshing his memory from the excellent book "The Fall River Outrage" by David Richard Kasserman.)

Attempts have been made to draw a parallel between the Lizzie Borden case and the more recent O.J. Simpson case but I daresay the links are tenuous and within a short period of time the Simpson case will fade into obscurity.

On the other hand, interest persists in a murder that took place sixty years before the Borden tragedy. Sarah Maria Cornell, was found dead by hanging from a hay rack on the farm of Richard Borden. The alleged assailant was Ephraim Kingsbury Avery, a minister in the Methodist Church.

The Borden case and the Avery case are different in many respects. One crime took place on a cold December night, the other on a summer day. However, there is a common thread that binds them together. The following notes are intended to outline the comparison.

Richard Borden's farm was located in Tiverton, Rhode Island which was immediately adjacent to Fall River and later made part of that town by boundary line changes.

Upon the discovery of Sarah's body, indignation and revulsion ran high in both villages. In Fall River, the shocked mill workers reacted accordingly with similar emotions. The people empathized and sympathized with the plight of one of their own number.

Town meetings were convened at which a Committee was appointed, charged with the investigation and prosecution of the guilty party. Nine hundred excited citizens attended the meeting. This represented as great an outcry in proportion to population as in the Borden case when mills and shops were closed and crowds thronged the neighborhood on Second Street.

In 1892 and in 1832 news of the slayings spread far and wide, debated everywhere, even in distant parts of the country. In 1832 letters were exchanged, poems published, books written, newspapers distributed, and in the manner of that time broadsides were posted in every neighborhood.

Each of the two woman involved, one the accused, the other a victim, had ties to the cotton manufacturing industry. Sarah Cornell worked in the weave room at the Fall River Manufactory. Lizzie Borden was related to the family that founded, financed, and managed the mills.

When Sarah Cornell arrived in Fall River the town had only recently emerged from its rural character to an industrial economy. There were an Iron Works and three operating cotton mills, all taking advantage of the water power provided by the

narrow stream that tumbled through the town. There were no labor laws then. The work was long and arduous extending from dawn to dusk with little time out for meals, except for men workers who were offered a tot of rum in mid-morning. The weave rooms were kept hot and humid and the noise of the looms was deafening. These were the conditions endured by Sarah in the course of her working day.

Both ladies, Lizzie and Sarah, suffered from fundamental problems. Lizzie, at thirty-two years of age, was resigned to spinsterhood and denied the accouterments and social contacts she felt were due the affluent Bordens. For an outlet to her repressions she turned to good works at her Congregational Church.

Sarah displayed a strange dichotomy. Because of loose living, including charges of fornication, theft and lying she was denied membership in the Methodist Church. Seeking salvation and forgiveness she went from town to town, working at the mills or as a seamstress, following pastors who might restore her standing in the Church.

It is curious that a woman of such loose morals would search for understanding in a return to religion. It was in that search that she met the man accused of her murder.

Sarah finally settled in Fall River to be near Avery who was the pastor of the Methodist Church in nearby Bristol, Rhode Island.

With evidence that pointed to Avery as her assailant the minister was brought to trial. There was a preliminary hearing, just as in Lizzie's case, but in this instance the accused was discharged.

His freedom was not to last. The Fall River Committee succeeded in having a second warrant issued for Avery's arrest. To avoid seizure the pastor arranged a hide-out at the home of a friend in Rindge, New Hampshire, but to no avail. By means of tip and tuition, worthy of a modern detective, Harvey Harnden tracked Avery to his lair. Harnden was a deputy sheriff and member of the Committee.

Escorted back to Rhode Island the minister was indicted by a Grand Jury and incarcerated pending trial. As in Lizzie's case Avery was obliged to languish in jail until trial commenced months away. In both cases the trial took place in a city other than the one in which the crime occurred, and in both cases the opposing sides arranged for an imposing array of lawyers to appear before a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices.

So great was the excitement in the two communities that the court houses were unable to accommodate the large crowds.

As in the Lizzie ordeal the bodies of the victims were exhumed for examination and subjected to a second autopsy. In Sarah's case the doctors confirmed an assault and pregnancy.

There was a mysterious note in both cases. Sarah's note, found in her effects led to suspicion of Avery as her assailant. The note in Lizzie's case was never found.

Lizzie's evasions regarding her whereabouts at the time of the murders were matched by Avery's evasions in which he denied his presence in Fall River the night of the attack.

(Continued on Page 14)

A GLIMPSE OF NANCE O'NEIL

(Editor's note: Other than the article by Judy Curry, ["Lizzie Borden Quarterly" Volume II, Number 2, Spring, 1994,] we have limited knowledge about this one-time famous friend of Miss Lizbeth Borden. A recent book gives us a glimpse into her professional life. Please see related article on page 11.)

Author Eve Golden has granted permission to the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* for a one-time printing of pages 45 through 47 from her biography of early film star Theda Bara, *Vamp, The Rise And Fall Of Theda Bara*, Emprise Publishing Company, Vestal, New York, 1996. The book will be available in paperback this spring in bookstores or by calling (800) 462-6420.

Chapter 4 - Her Double Life

Theda's second film - her first as a celebrity - began production early in the winter of 1915. If she was expecting star treatment on the set, she was in for a shock. William Fox knew when he signed her for *A Fool There Was* that she would become an instant star, and he wasn't about to let it go to her head. He remembered what Robert Hilliard had told him about famous actresses demanding raises. So, although he praised Theda to the rooftops in his press releases, Fox made sure she was treated like just another worker on the lot.

Along with co-star Nance O'Neil, Theda was assigned a new leading man from the Fox stock players, William Shay. A New Yorker who had appeared on Broadway and in films all over the world, Shay was one of the many hard-working but largely unknown performers toiling for Fox. He appeared in four films with Theda before departing to the IMP company in 1916 and pretty much vanishing from film history.

She got a new director, too: thirty-five-year-old Herbert Brenon. The Dublin-born Brenon had acted in stock and vaudeville with his wife, entering films in 1909. He had hopped from company to company, eventually landing at Fox in time to guide Theda through *The Kreutzer Sonata* and three other films. He later went on to direct such hits as *Beau Geste*, *Peter Pan* and *A Kiss for Cinderella*. Brenon was an enthusiastic professional and enjoyed experimenting with new film techniques (while shooting one of Theda's films, Brenon shot one scene with six cameras, which was extremely rare in the 1910's).

Theda's second film was a trying experience for the new star;



A pensive Nance O'Neil - 1929
Photograph Courtesy of Bertolet Archives

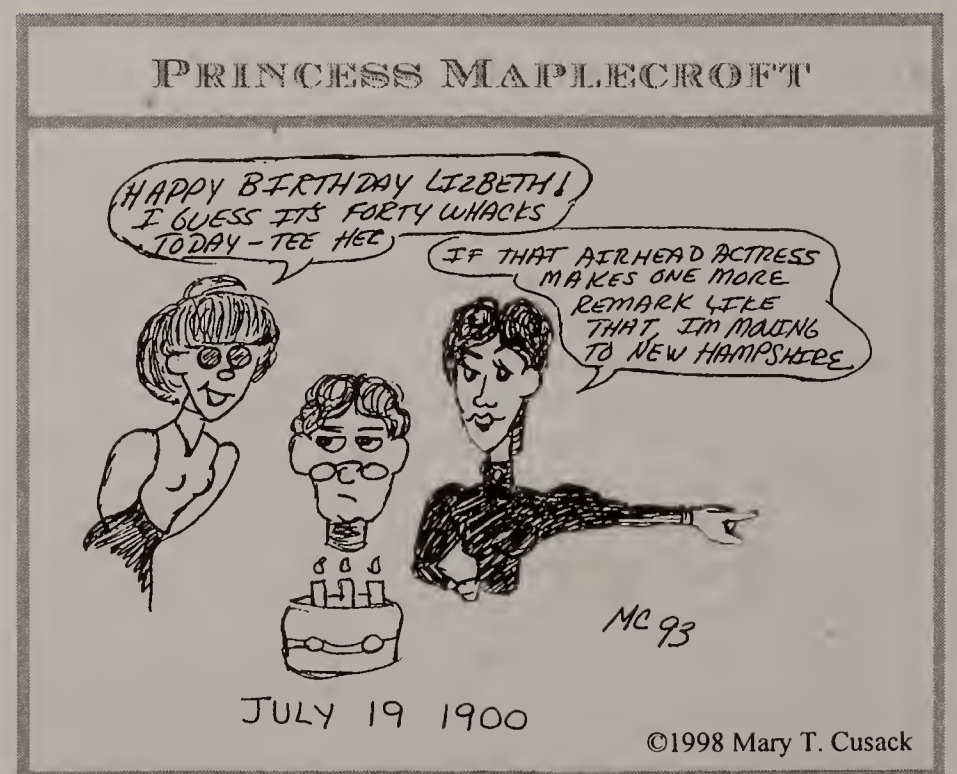
for one thing, she was in awe of and resented her co-star. O'Neil - rather intimidating at nearly six feet tall - had been on Broadway since 1896 and had played Lady Macbeth, Hedda Gabler, and Camille. She was a much bigger star than Theda and of course got top billing and kid-glove treatment.

The Kreutzer Sonata, freely adapted from Tolstoy, was fully as lurid as *A Fool There Was*. The story concerned Miriam Friedlander (O'Neil), an Orthodox Jew who cannot marry the father of her baby. She runs away with a violinist who is stolen by her wicked sister Celia (Theda). Miriam loses her mind and kills her sister, her husband and finally herself. The five-reel film, which ran about an hour, was very quickly filmed early in 1915, as Fox wanted to follow up the success of *A Fool There Was*. Theda's second film was released in March, only two months after *Fool*.

When release prints, posters and press materials for *The Kreutzer Sonata* arrived at theaters nationwide, managers began displaying Theda's name on the marquees to bring in customers. Fox executives complained that O'Neil's contract called for top billing, but theater owners said it was Theda bringing in the crowds.

Years later, Theda spoke of her dissatisfaction filming this picture. "I was assigned to support a well-known star," she recalled. "Again I was a 'vampire,' and I was not particularly happy in the role. The studio became a factory, and I can think of no more applicable simile than to say we manufactured pictures in about the same way they make sausages. They were just turned out, one after another." Theda hadn't seen anything yet. By the time *The Kreutzer Sonata* was being released and reviewed, she was already hard at work on her third film, playing yet another vampire in *The Clemenceau Case*.

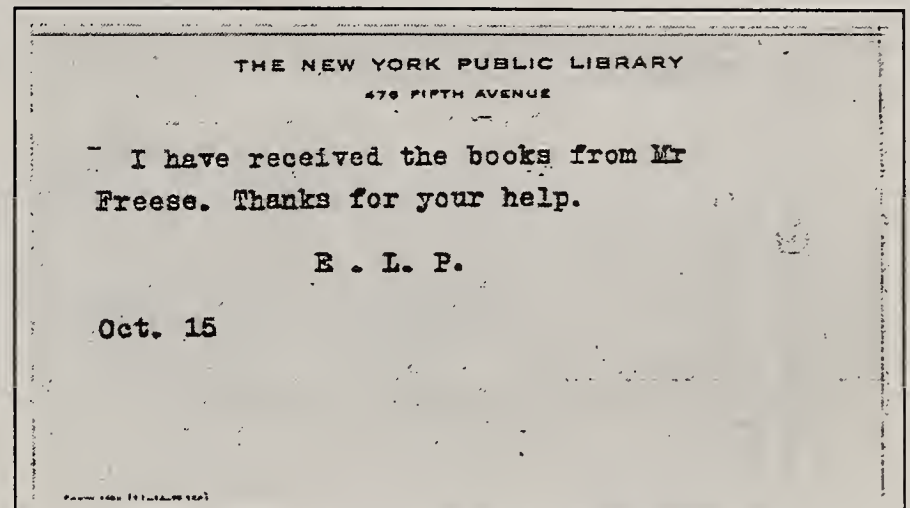
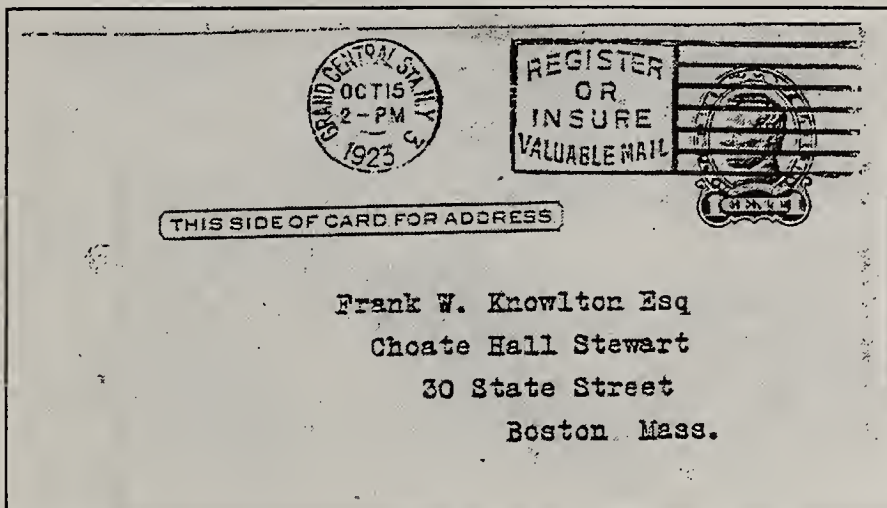
At least her *Kreutzer Sonata* reviews provided some good news: it was a big hit, mostly due to curiosity about Theda. "Startling and remarkable," according to one reviewer; another said of Theda and O'Neil, "their acting is splendidly realistic and emotionally powerful." Being favorably compared to a stage diva like Nance (Editor's note: Pronounced *Nancy*) O'Neil must have given Theda strength to continue filming.



The Edmund Lester Pearson/Frank Warren Knowlton Correspondence

Part III

Printed courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society



(Editor's note: The above penny postcard dated October 15, 1923 represents the successful conclusion of Lester Pearson's two and one-half month quest to acquire the Lizzie Borden trial transcript, prior to writing his first essay. We know from his earlier correspondence that Pearson displayed total "Lizzie did it" bias before gathering any evidence whatsoever. This is what makes the following letter so interesting.

It would appear that Pearson was deeply, emotionally and significantly involved enough with the public persona of Miss Lizbeth Borden to stand outside her residence for a half hour hoping for a glimpse of her. It is even more incomprehensible to note his likening his disappointment to waiting one and a half hours, in vain, for a sight of the Queen of England.

Curious-er and curious-er, I do believe)

Letter Number 26:

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, November 22, 1923

Mr. Frank W. Knowlton
30 State Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Knowlton:

Thanks to your introduction, Mr. Cummings saw me as soon as I arrived in Fall River, and gave me a long interview. He was most kind and very interesting in his conversation. He gave me several hints which I found well worth while following up. I made three attempts to see Mr. Milton Reed, but could not locate him. They said, in Mr. Cummings' office, that he was in poor health a good deal of the time, and others told me that he might be out of town, so in the end I had to leave without seeing him. I talked with a good many other people, including the Chief of Police, and visited, to my great delight, several places connected with the event. I waited for about half an hour in front of the present home of the lady who

calls herself, in the telephone directory, Lizbeth A. Borden, and although I had little hope of seeing her, I was more disappointed than I was many years ago when I waited one and one-half hours in Hyde Park but failed in the end to see the Queen of England. Since then I have seen a Queen or two, but I am afraid now that I shall die without ever having seen this famous citizen of Fall River. I was rebuked by a young woman in a picture postcard shop for asking why they didn't have a postcard with the picture of the Borden house on Second Street, and was told that only "outsiders" take any interest in the case.

On the whole, however, of the dozen or more people with whom I talked about the case, I found very little sentiment which would have been agreeable to the Reverends Buck and Jubb. The prediction made by the Providence Journal at the time of the acquittal that many persons would disagree with the result of the trial, seems to have been amply fulfilled. I spent two or three-hours in the Public Library searching over old files of the Fall River Globe. What they used to say every year on the anniversary of the murder was certainly a plenty! I wonder if the other papers or any of the pro-Lizzie forces ever replied.

My visit to Fall River was very interesting and useful to me and I am grateful to you for helping to make it so. I will send you, in a short time, the letter about which we spoke so that you can consult with Mr. Pillsbury about it.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund L. Pearson

(Continued on Page 17)

LIZZIE BORDEN AND O.J. SIMPSON

A Study in Coincidence - 100 Years Apart

By Glenn Allen

(n)* = End Note

1. The Crime

Lizzie(1)* Borden

O.J. Simpson

Two bodies - a male and female	Andrew Jackson Borden, 69 - Abby Durfee Borden, 64 (2)*	Ronald Lyle Goldman, 25 - Nicole Brown Simpson, 35. (3)*
Victims killed in rage	Andrew hacked about the face as he lay on a sofa. Abby hacked as she lay on the floor. (4)*	Nicole and Ron's throats slashed; each stabbed repeatedly. Nicole's head banged on a gate or metal fence. (5)*
Murder times similar	9 a.m and 11 a.m. (6)*	9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. (7)*
Murders during summer months, 100 years apart	Occurred on Aug. 4, 1892. (8)*	Occurred on June 12, 1994. (9)*
No out-cry from victims	(10)*	(11)*
Bloody clothing	A blood-stained dress (the defense said it was paint). (12)*	Drips of blood at crime scene, a bloody glove, blood inside Bronco. (13)*
Second wife killed	Abby was Andrew's second wife; Sarah Morse was his first. (14)*	Nicole was O.J.'s second wife; Marguerite Whitley was his first. (15)*
Families had history of domestic problems	Lizzie and Emma disliked Abby, avoided meals with her, and called her "Mrs. Borden." Andrew seen as a miserly tyrant. (16)*	A wife beater, as 911 records and Nicole's photos show; police respond to 9 domestic incidents; convicted of wife beating in 1989, pleads no contest. (17)*
The month of June	Acquitted June 20, 1893. (18)*	Ron and Nicole murdered June 12, 1994. (19)*

II. The Accused

Lizzie Borden

O.J. Simpson

Warned of odious intents toward victims	To Alice Russell the night before the murders: "I am afraid somebody will do something; I don't know what, but someone will do something." Tries to buy prussic acid the day before the crime. (20)*	O.J. tells Ron Shipp of a dream in which he kills Nicole. (21)*
Not seen during murders	Inside the house, maid outside when Abby killed; outside while maid inside when Andrew killed. (22)*	Lacked an alibi from 9:30 p.m. to 10:40 p.m. (23)*
Changed where-about during crime	Said she was on the stairs near Abby's corpse, in the kitchen, the dining room, out in the yard, in the barn. (24)*	Lacked a plausible story for his actions. (25)*
Chosen based on motive, access, presence	Motive: Greed. Access & Presence: In or around the house without an eyewitness alibi. (26)*	Motive: Rage, jealousy. Access: The Bronco. Presence: A black man's hair, O.J.'s blood-type drippings, his glove. (27)*
Accused from the upper class	Andrew a bank president, substantial property owner and near millionaire. (28)*	Celebrated athlete and movie star; a Hall of Fame football player, National Football League fame. (29)*
Seen as victim	Female in a male-dominated era. (30)*	Black in a white-ruled era. (31)*
Has a maid	Bridget "Maggie" Sullivan	"Gigi" (32)*
Eats before murders	Ate breakfast before Abby killed; eating pears when Andrew killed. (33)*	Stops at McDonald's for a burger with Brian "Kato" Kaelin. (34)*
Posts a reward to catch killer	Posts \$5,000 reward with her sister Emma. (35)*	Posts reward and sets up an 800 number.
Searches for killer	(36)*	(37)*
Born in July; sign "Cancer"	Born July 19, 1860. (38)*	Born July 9, 1947. (39)*
The number 32	Age 32 during murders and when acquitted. (40)*	Was number 32 for the Buffalo Bills. (41)*

Defended by a "Dream Team" of lawyers	George Dexter Robinson, former 3-term governor of Mass.; Andrew J. Jennings, her most capable legal adviser and Melvin Adams, Esq. (42)*	Robert Shapiro, veteran barrister; Johnnie Cochran Jr., formidable trial lawyer; Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld, DNA experts; Alan Dershowitz, Harvard law professor and F. Lee Bailey.
Eligible for death penalty; not requested	(43)*	(44)*
Juries sequestered	(45)*	(46)*
Juries tour crime scene and property	Done on June 6, 1893. (47)*	Done on February 12, 1995. (48)*
Police seen as bungling and malicious	Bent on proving Lizzie guilty with rumors and without a weapon. (49)*	Sloppy evidence-collecting; a racist cop who plants evidence. (50)*
Accused doesn't take the stand; states innocence to the court and press	June 20, 1893: "I am innocent. I leave it to my counsel to speak for me." (51)*	Sept. 22, 1995: "I did not, could not, and would not have committed this crime." (52)*
Juries vote to acquit shortly into deliberations	Votes to acquit 10 minutes into deliberations; waits 50 minutes before announcing verdict. (53)*	Reached verdict in less than 4 hours, a shocking time frame considering the wealth of evidence presented in the 16 months of the trial. (54)*
Trial seen as a mockery of justice	Seen as having paid her way to freedom. (55)*	Verdict seen as racially motivated; damning evidence ignored.
Accused parties after verdict	(56)*	
Accused ostracized after trial	(57)*	Evicted by neighbors, no offers from ad agencies or movies.
Crime never solved	(58)*	As of this writing.

(Editor's note: This truly amazing comparison chart was submitted by a first-time author. Mr. Allen lives in Easton, Pennsylvania, not too far from your editor. While we had previously published a trilogy of excellent O.J./Lizzie comparisons a couple years back, none were in this very interesting chart format, consequently, it seemed worthwhile to bring this to your attention.)

- (1) She was so christened. Edward Radin, *Lizzie Borden: The Untold Story* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1961), 18.
- (2) Arnold Brown, *Lizzie Borden: The Legend, The Truth, The Final Chapter* (Nashville, Tennessee: Rutledge Hill Press, 1991), 325, 331.
- (3) Linda Deutsch and Michael Fleeman and The Associated Press, *Verdict: The Chronicle of the O.J. Simpson Trial* (Kansas City, Missouri: Universal Press Syndicate Co., 1995), 21.
- (4) Brown, 195-197, 203; David Kent, *Forty Whacks: New Evidence in the Life and Legend of Lizzie Borden* (Emmaus, Pennsylvania: Yankee Books, 1992), 139-140, 171-172.
- (5) Deutsch et al., 22, 68.
- (6) Brown, 79-81.
- (7) Deutsch et al., 49-50, 116.
- (8) Kent, 200.

- (9) Deutsch et al., 49.
- (10) Brown, 343-346, 360-361; Kent, 171.
- (11) Deutsch et al., 49-50.
- (12) Brown, 241-243.
- (13) Deutsch et al., 108.
- (14) Brown, 79-81.
- (15) Deutsch et al., 23, 74, 95.
- (16) Brown, 49-53, 330; Betty Mitchell, "The True Lizzie Borden," *Proceedings: The Lizzie Borden Conference*, Jules Ryckebusch, ed. (Portland, Maine: King Philip Publishing Co., 1993), 204-206.
- (17) Deutsch et al., 22, 39-41.
- (18) Kent, 200.
- (19) Deutsch et al., 49.
- (20) Brown, 63-66, 70-71.
- (21) Deutsch et al., 17; The New York Times, 2 February 1995, A, 18, 1
- (22) Brown, 80-81; Kent, 171
- (23) Deutsch et al., 116.
- (24) Brown, 80-81, 340-351

- (25) Deutsch et al., 116.
- (26) Brown, 54-55.
- (27) Deutsch et al., 108, 116.
- (28) Kent, 1-3.
- (29) Deutsch et al., 95; *The New York Times*, 24 June 1995, A, 16:1.
- (30) Wayne Hobson, "Shifting Perspectives," *Proceedings*, 172.
- (31) Deutsch et al., 35, 121.
- (32) Deutsch et al., 53.
- (33) Brown, 339, 358; Bridget Sullivan, Borden maid, "Commonwealth vs. Lizzie A. Borden," 63.
- (34) Deutsch et al., 55.
- (35) Brown, 153, 377.
- (36) Brown, 139-140, 377.
- (37) Deutsch et al., 124.
- (38) Brown, 53.
- (39) *The New York Times*, 18 June 1994, I, 11:4.
- (40) Brown, 325.
- (41) Deutsch et al., 23.
- (42) Brown, 246.
- (43) Brown, 238-239.
- (44) Deutsch et al., 36.
- (45) Brown, 247.
- (46) Deutsch et al., 36.
- (47) *The Trial of Lizzie Borden*, Edmund Pearson, ed. (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1937), 128.
- (48) Deutsch et al., 51-54.
- (49) Kent, 200-202.
- (50) Deutsch et al., 108.
- (51) Pearson, 377.
- (52) Deutsch et al., 91.
- (53) Kent, 196.
- (54) Deutsch et al., 1.
- (55) Kent, 208-210.
- (56) Brown, 280.
- (57) Kent, 202-204, 208-210.
- (58) Kent, 202-204, 220.

(Editor's note: Now, from the sublime to the ridiculous. From time to time your editor receives odd and interesting pieces of Lizzieanna in the mail. For example, Ms. Nancy A.F. McNelly recently advised that "The International Society of Redheads" proudly claims Lizzie as one of their own. While surfing the net, Ms. McNelly also found the following poem.

THE BALLAD OF O.J. SIMPSON

Tune: *The Ballad of Lizzie Borden* (Chad Mitchell Trio, 1961)

Yesterday out in Los Angeles, Nicole and Ronald died.
And they busted O.J. Simpson on a charge of homicide.
Well, he might not have done it but the media think he did,
And Michael Jackson's volunteered to take care of the kids.

'Cause you can't cut your exes up in California,
Contrary to all popular belief.
No, you can't cut your exes up in California,
You know it's gonna cause a lot of grief.

Well, he might have used a razor 'cause the airline lost his gun,
But he didn't use a hatchet 'CAUSE THAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE!
Now poor O.J.'s in the jailhouse, and they're looking for the knife.
For just ten million dollars, he might get off with life.

'Cause you can't cut your exes up in California,
And then blame all the damage on the heat.
No, you can't cut your exes up in California,
With evidence upon the Bronco seat.

You can sell a ton of crack and the cops will turn their back.
You can rape and burn and loot; they don't want another suit.
You can peddle phony stock like they do in Little Rock,
But you can't turn your ex into a Pez dispenser.
California is a far cry from DC.

No, you can't cut your exes up in California,
And then go out and drive around the town.
No, you can't cut your exes up in California,
It's almost sure to make the jury frown.

(Author unknown)

(Editor's note: While also surfing the net, friend Eric Stedman found this one.)

O.J. According To Dr. Seuss

I stayed at home that fateful night
I took a cab, then took a flight
Nothing, nothing there to hide
My friend Al took me for a ride
The bag I had was just for me
The bag is mine so leave it be!

When I came home I had a gash
My hand was gashed from broken glass
I gashed my hand on broken glass
A broken glass did cause that gash

Did you take a person's life?
Did you do it with a knife?
I did not do it with a knife
I did not, could not, kill my wife
I did not do this awful crime
I could not, would not, anytime
I could not kill my lovely wife
I did not slash her with a knife
I did not bonk her on the head
I did not know that she was dead

Did you hit her from above?
Did you drop this bloody glove?
I did not hit her from above
I can not even wear that glove
I did not do it with a knife
I did not, could not, kill my wife
I did not do this awful crime
I could not, would not, anytime

So now I'm free, I can return
To my big house for which I yearn
And to my kids, whom I do love
So now I'm free ... give back my glove!

(Author unknown)

BORDEN AND RAMSEY MURDER CASES

by Denise Noe

(Editor's note: It seems fitting that this article should follow the charts about the O.J. Simpson case similarities.)

There are several remarkable similarities between the Borden murders and the JonBenet Ramsey slaying.

In both cases, the victims received blows to the head. In the Borden murders, a daughter was accused of killing her parents; in the Ramsey tragedy, parents are suspected of killing their daughter.

Both cases involve wealthy families and, in both, it is widely speculated that money is shielding a killer(s) from the law. In addition, rumors of incest have swirled around both families.

Perhaps the oddest coincidence is the way a note figures in the two cases: providing the suspected with an alibi and, paradoxically, providing fertile ground for suspicion. Readers of LBQ know that Lizzie Borden said her stepmother had gone out in response to a note from a sick friend - and that no one was ever able to find the note, the woman who sent it, or the boy who delivered it. The note at the Ramsey residence raises eyebrows with its demand for the peculiar ransom amount of \$118,000.00. Even stranger is the fact that a second, apparently practice note, was found at their residence.

In both cases, it has been suggested that a disgruntled ex-employee or business associate did the foul deeds. Andrew Borden could have easily angered someone who worked either for or with him. Some think the \$118,000 figure represented a bonus or severance pay that someone fired by John Ramsey failed to receive.

The lists of likely villains bear a passing resemblance to each other. The most commonly suggested murderers in the Borden affair are Lizzie Borden, her sister Emma Borden, the maid Bridget Sullivan, and Uncle John Morse. In the Ramsey tragedy, they are John Ramsey, Patsy Ramsey, and JonBenet's brother Burke Ramsey.

In both cases, a murderer from outside the family would, if s/he had no accomplice in the house, have to be possessed of extraordinary amounts of nerve, cleverness, and just plain luck to have remained in someone else's home long enough to do the dirty work undetected. About an hour passed between the murder of Mrs. Borden and that of Mr. Borden, yet the intruder, if there was one, waited in the small house without being discovered by either Lizzie or Bridget. If an outsider murdered JonBenet, s/he walked onto and away from their grounds without leaving footprints, entered their home without causing a stir, took the time to write not one but two ransom notes, murdered and bound JonBenet, and finally hid her body in a basement storage room before making a getaway.

John and Patsy Ramsey, like Emma and Lizzie Borden before them, posted rewards to anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of whomever killed JonBenet.

As we all know, the Borden reward was never paid; the case



JonBenet Ramsey

remains a mystery to this day. Let us all fervently hope that the resemblance between these two cases will end with a trial - and that the killer of little JonBenet Ramsey will be brought to justice.

KNOWN FILMS OF NANCE O'NEIL

The items charted below represent all the known films that Nance O'Neil appeared in following her retirement from the stage. The films were all silent from 1915 through 1927. No doubt she appeared in many other films. Any additional information from our readers would be greatly appreciated.

This list was mostly compiled by Ms. Judy Curry and we thank her very much. Please see the related article on page 6.

	Year	Film	Director
1.	1915	Kreutzer Sonata	Herbert Brenon
2.	1915	Princess Romanoff	Frank Powell
3.	1915	A Woman's Past	Frank Powell
4.	1916	Iron Woman	Carl Harbaugh
5.	1916	The Witch	Frank Powell
6.	1917	Fall of the Romanoffs	Herbert Brenon
7.	1917	Final Payment	Frank Powell
8.	1917	Greed (Seven Deadly Sins)	Unknown
9.	1917	Hedda Gabler	Unknown
10.	1917	Mrs. Balfame	Frank Powell
11.	1919	Mad Woman	Unknown
12.	1927	Loves of Carmen	Unknown
13.	1929	His Glorious Night	Lionel Barrymore
14.	1930	Call of the Flesh	Charles Brabin
15.	1930	Eyes of the World	Henry King
16.	1930	Floradora Girl	Harry Beaumont
17.	1930	Ladies of Leisure	Frank R. Capra
18.	1930	Lady of Scandal	Sidney Franklin
19.	1930	Princess Alexandra	Lionel Barrymore and Hal Roach
20.	1931	Cimarron	Wesley Ruggles
21.	1931	Good Bad Girl	Roy William Neill
22.	1931	Resurrection	Edwin Carewe
23.	1931	Royal Bed	Lowell Sherman
24.	1931	Secret Service	J. Walter Ruben
25.	1931	Their Mad Moment	Unknown
26.	1931	Transgression	Herbert Brenon
27.	1931	Woman of Experience	Harry Joe Brown
28.	1931	False Faces	Lowell Sherman
29.	1932	Okay, America	Tay Garnett
30.	1932	Westward Passage	Robert Milton
31.	1935	Brewster's Millions	Unknown
32.	1953	The Titfield Thunderbolt	Charles Crichton

THE SOUND OF ABBY

By Kathleen Troost

(Editor's note: It is always a pleasure to receive an article that generates fresh thought. This is just such a piece. Ms. Troost, while being a first-time contributor, is also a first-rate author and thought-provoker. In my mind, there was always the question that Kathleen, through logic and thought progression, answers. I do hope this article will be a catalyst generating future articles. Please come back, Kathleen...)

If you're a Lizzie fan, there's a certain joy in unemployment. You get to leaf through the Sourcebook all day and pencil out little escape routes on the floor plan of The House. In the mental vacuum provided by lack of meaningful work, all kinds of strange new things start creeping into your mind. For instance, I never thought much about Abby's corpse until I was unemployed.

That may be a good thing, you say. Indeed! But to be serious, it only struck me recently how really strange it is for Abby's corpse to be in that position. Certainly the odd attitude of A.J.'s body has been long recognized, questioned, and deliberated; but it is still generally accepted that Abby, struck in the face, wheeled around somehow and with the subsequent blows took a giant pratfall (with her arms folded neatly beneath her, to boot), crashing to the floor with a tremor that would certainly have been heard and felt throughout the house. Lizzie and Bridget therefore don't seem very credible when they tell us they really didn't hear or feel anything out of the ordinary, honest.

Let's refer to the photograph now. If Abby was instantly killed by that first blow to the face - assuming the killer was near the foot of the bed, as is believed - she would either be on her back, face-up, or if face-down, at least her head would be in the opposite direction and her feet would be pointing toward the wall. Obviously this was not the case. So the logical assumption is that, after being attacked, she did indeed wheel around - quite purposely - and was assaulted from behind.

But you'd expect, in that case, to find her crumpled up on the floor, or huddled cowering in the corner, having fled into the farthest recess she could find. We know this was not the case, either. She was not found against a wall or in a corner and the body is prone, face-down and stretched out flat. Hardly the position one would expect from a person being threatened with death, and that of the ghastliest kind.

So the question, then, is as the contemporary *New York Herald* asked it: "How did it get into that position? That is one of the puzzles for which nobody has suggested an adequate solution." (David Kent & Robert A. Flynn, *The Lizzie Borden Sourcebook*, p. 31.) I have a feeling the adequate solution may sound funny or illogical or unintellectual, or call it what you will, but it's simple and -- as my father would say -- if not probable, at least very possible. Looking at the photo, and having actually stood in that dreadful guest room, Abby's pose strikes me as that of someone trying to crawl under a bed.

Think about it, now. Turn on the imagination.

Abby is dealt a terrible blow to the face. Instantly the primitive fight-or-flight instinct takes command. Flight is chosen; she wheels around, away from her attacker. All that remains for her panicked, fevered mind is to find a way of flight. Penned in as she is by assailant behind, dresser on left, and wall



Murder Scene showing Mrs. Borden in the Guest Bedroom

Photograph Courtesy of The Fall River Historical Society

before, this instantly resolves into two choices: over the bed and under the bed.

Number one, over the bed, is instantly rejected. Though it may bring her to the door faster, it leaves her exposed, out in the open and vulnerable to further attack. (It's true that poor Abby's mind is in a pitiful state of extreme panic, stress, and confusion; but it's also true that the brain performs in such cases with unbelievable speed and decisiveness, whether its decisions are logical or not. Please don't think I'm saying that Abby is standing there like Hamlet pondering and rejecting her options. This all happened, if at all, in terrifically less time than it's taking to read it.) No, the thing to do is to find cover and dive for it. So number two, under the bed, is "decided" upon. It will provide cover; it will bring her closer to the door, if even by a few inches; it will make it very difficult for the would-be killer to pursue her; and even if he (oh, very well - or *she*) does so, he cannot use his weapon to full effect. It will buy time, perhaps, to summon help. This action being the wisest Abby's poor mind could come up with, it immediately begins to carry it out and she flattens out on the floor to gain this protection.

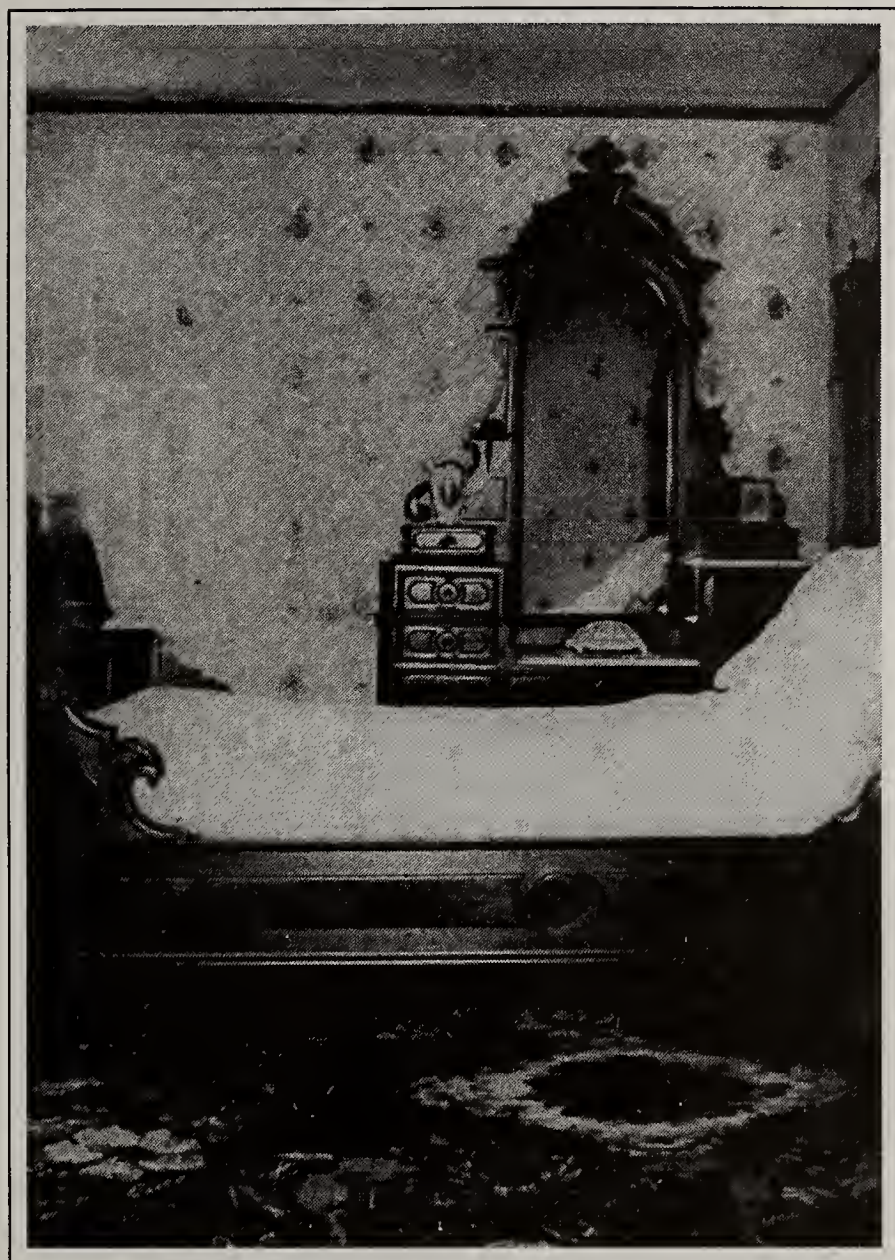
We know that Abby never reached that cover she was striving for. Nevertheless, we reach an important conclusion here. If this is true, if Abby did indeed get down on the floor quite deliberately, then she *did not crash to it* and Lizzie and Bridget are exonerated in this particular. They can't very well be expected to hear something that never happened.

So perhaps we've blown apart yet another myth, a fabrication promoted by the prosecution to further its own agenda, to cast all possible doubt on the honesty of the defendant. Maybe when Lizzie said she knew nothing whatsoever about dastardly goings-on upstairs, she was telling the truth.

Or maybe I should just get a job.

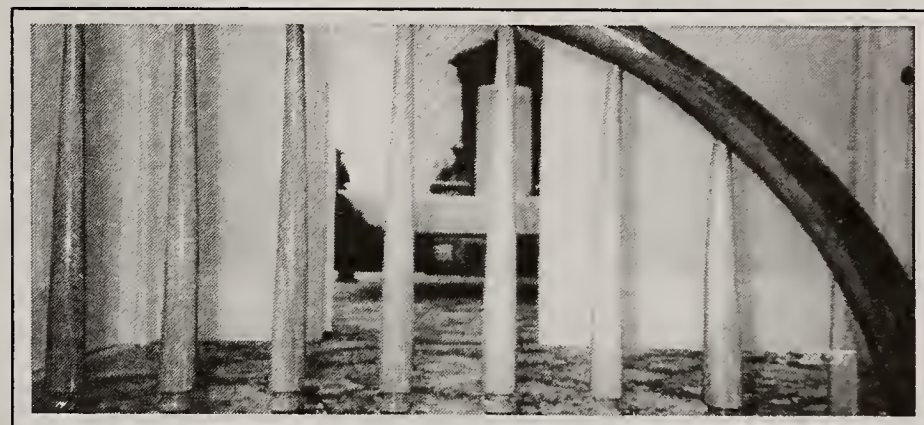
A TALE OF TWO PICTURES

by Maynard F. Bertolet



Then - A view of the Borden guest bedroom taken from the doorway

Photograph Courtesy of *The Fall River Historical Society*



Now - A view into the guest bedroom from the stairway

Photograph Courtesy of Jeannine Bertolet

Second Street house. Also as usual, co-owners Martha McGinn and Ron Evans were most gracious and allowed the ever-talented, beautiful and gracious Jeannine (my wife) to take some pictures.

One of these pictures is reproduced above. Also, on the left, we have included a picture of the guest bedroom taken by the police from inside the hallway door during the murder investigation. By viewing these two pictures one can see how difficult it might be for any person walking down the stairs, looking ahead, and focusing on the events below, to discern a body on the other side of the bed. It gives one pause to consider.

LIZZIE, YES - LIZZIE, NO

(Continued from Page 3)

You see, much has happened behind the scenes since the last issue. After examining the photograph, the people at *Swann Galleries* had concerns about the *Gay Studio* signature. They thought there was the possibility of forgery. Consequently, *Swann Galleries* insisted upon authentication prior to offering it for sale. Since evidence was not to be had, their management decided to withdraw the photograph from the auction. Daile Kaplan, *Swann Galleries'* Curator of Photographs, called the *LBQ* Publisher, Mr. Jules R. Ryckebusch, and relayed their decision.

Coincidentally, Mr. Ryckebusch had been having second thoughts himself. He had become uncertain about the photograph's origin after the *Fall River Historical Society* could not identify any of the eleven ladies pictured. Since there was now a distinct possibility that the photograph may not have been taken in Fall River, the only sensible course of action was to concur with Mr. Kaplan and the *Fall River Historical Society*. However, our publisher continues to point out the similarity of features between the lady in the photograph and Miss Lizzie Borden.

Consequently, complete agreement has now been realized between the *Fall River Historical Society*, *Swann Galleries* and the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, if not the owner. We do, however, appreciate *The Drawing Room* for allowing us to print the complete photograph. This was another first!

Now, let's move on to other things. Has anyone out there found the missing note yet that was delivered to Abby Borden on the morning of the murders?

Of course, anytime two or more Borden case addicts are gathered together, the conversation will eventually drift to the murder of Mrs. Abby Borden. Without fail, the question of whether or not Miss Lizzie Borden was on the stairs when Andrew returned shortly before 11:00 A.M. on that fateful day crops up. Depending upon what the discussion participants believe about Lizzie, the balance of this topic can be charted without fail. Following Ms. Troost's *The Sound of Abby* article, this seemed like a good occasion for your editor to let the readership see with their own eyes what she might - or might not - have seen, had she been on the stairs!

According to Bridget Sullivan's testimony, Lizzie was on the stairs and uttered an unseemly phrase while Bridget was having problems opening the front door for Mr. Andrew J. Borden. This being so, Miss Lizzie was apparently focused on the actions below her while descending the stairs. There is really only one point of vision from the stairs where the body of Mrs. Borden could best be seen on the far side of bed in the guest room. It would follow that the time available for Miss Lizzie to have noticed the body would be extremely limited, if at all.

During our last visit to Fall River, as usual, we visited the

The Fall River Historical Society

451 Rock Street

Fall River, MA 02720-3344

Telephone (508) 679-1071



Used and Rare Books and Ephemera

Send a business size self-addressed, stamped envelope for a list of used and rare books and ephemera relating to the Borden case, to be offered in the Spring.

The Borden Tragedy

By Rick Geary

A talented artist, Geary has presented the Borden murders story for the first time in a comic book format of approximately 300 drawings with captions that tell the story. A bibliography is included. The book's high-gloss folded-paper cover adds to its unusual attractiveness, 6" by 9", \$8.95 each, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Enclosed are two postcards also drawn by Geary.

(Massachusetts residents please add 5% sales tax)

The Borden House

By Rick Geary

Cut out and assemble the Borden house and barn as they appeared in 1892. Black and white drawings by artist Rick Geary on 8½ x 11 light card stock.

\$1.00 each plus \$1.00 shipping and handling

(Massachusetts residents please add 5% sales tax)

LIZBITS

(Continued from Page 5)

In 1833 the prosecution, largely financed by the Committee, was led by a former Attorney General of the state and is reminiscent of Lizzie's employment of a former governor of her state for her defense. Representing Fall River's mill interests, the Committee's purpose was to preserve the mills' standing as a haven for young girls and a protector of their morals. Thus, a ready working force of female labor in the factories was assured. In the following condensed account of the Avery trial, several parallels with the Borden trial can be found.

The Rhode Island case relied on witnesses who placed Avery on the scene, on letters left by Sarah implicating Avery as the father of her unborn child, and on evidence procured by the indefatigable Harnden and made available to the prosecuting attorneys.

In Avery's defense, the Methodist Conference employed one of the area's most noted lawyers with a staff of five additional lawyers. Their intent was to protect the sanctity of the Church and its pastors. The defense centered on contrasting the egregious behavior of Sarah Cornell with the sterling character of the accused, and on the claim that Sarah's death was self-inflicted by means of suicide. However, its array of witnesses was not able to establish a convincing defense.

The trial in both cases ended in June. The Justice's charge to the jury in this trial was as short as the one in Lizzie's case was long.

The contest between the mill interests and the Methodist

Church concluded with the acquittal of the defendant - shades of Lizzie Borden!! Miss Lizzie lived in luxury in Fall River the rest of her life. Avery was threatened with violence and was unable to sustain a ministry. To avoid public animosity he moved to Ohio and engaged in farming with moderate success.

Local newspapers continued their interest in the case, and like the *Globe* in Fall River, a series of articles ensued. Within a year after the Avery trial, plays were performed and a book published. The Richard Borden farm was engulfed by an expanding city and made a part of a public park.

The mystery remains. Was Lizzie innocent and was Avery guilty?

DICTIONARIES

I was pleased to note that Lizzie Borden is worthy of mention in the *American Heritage Dictionary*. Indeed, in the Third Edition of that book, not only is Lizzie listed but her picture accompanies the text. The latter reads as follows: - Borden (Bor-dn) Lizzie Andrew 1860 - 1927, American woman accused and acquitted of the ax murders of her parents (1892) in Massachusetts. Not to pick an overly fine point, but the august tome refers to the victims as parents, whereas only her father was such, the other victim being a stepmother.

The Random House Dictionary got it right, setting the definition as - Borden (Bor-dn) Lizzie (Andrew) 1860-1927. Defendant in 1893 trial, acquitted of ax murder of father and stepmother.

Lizzie is not listed in Webster's International Dictionary.

The Online Lizzie Borden

(Continued from Page 1)

I can't remember if the three of us were familiar with the usual "40 whacks" jingle, but we certainly knew "Shut the door and lock and latch it! Here comes Lizzie with a brand new hatchet!" (My grandmother disapproved; she felt that songs about patricide were inappropriate for tender young minds. I'm glad to say that we all grew up to be responsible citizens, and that our parents, well into their seventies, have fully intact skulls).

My interest in the Bordens was reawakened during my college years by a simple coincidence. I had friends in Tiverton, and would take the bus to Fall River to meet them. While I waited at the station for their arrival, I would stare at that strangely familiar house next to the print shop across the street. My sense of *deja vu* was resolved when I started consulting the Borden books in the library: I did know that house. So, after I had been inspired by the opera, it seemed a natural enterprise to create an accurate virtual model of 92 Second Street. I assumed the task would be brief and simple, just a bit of fun. After all, didn't many of the books I'd read include floor plans?

The Virtual Reality Journey Begins

Which only shows how naive I was. Floor plans and the few available photographs are helpful, but there is much more to a fully furnished house occupied by five people than such things reveal. I found myself pursuing the frustrating course of attempting to wring information out of every book about the Borden case I could find. And frustrating it was, because the authors of such books are not particularly interested in describing the color scheme of Andrew and Abby's bedroom. What's more, these sources didn't always agree with each other, and there was often no good way to choose which account was correct. Even David Kent and Robert Flynn's *Lizzie Borden Sourcebook* gave me pause when I realized their description of the plot of Beeson's opera was scrambled.

This is not to say that useful little nuggets didn't turn up: the curtain around Lizzie's bedroom basin and pitcher, the fireplaces that had been sealed up when Franklin stoves were used to heat the house, the location of Andrew's safe, the fact that Lizzie's affection for the color blue extended to her bedspread. Every book seemed to have a tidbit I could use, and of all the Borden books, Victoria Lincoln's was the most helpful when it came to furnishings.

But my favorite gems of information were those that were dropped by the participants themselves because these were truly reliable. In one of her accounts of the time she spent in the barn loft, Lizzie explained that she had straightened the curtains. (Curtains in a barn? This transplanted Midwesterner would never have thought of that.) Bridget testified that she put the Bordens' clean laundry on the dining room couch. (Aha! Put a couch in that room.) Alice Russell said that Lizzie hung those never-ironed handkerchiefs on a rack in Emma's room. (What sort of rack could Emma have wedged into her little room?)

It was also fortunate that my own Massachusetts home was built in the same period and in a similar style. As I later confirmed, ceiling heights, door and window moldings, etc. provided good models for those in the Borden house. The builder even avoided wasting space on hallways, although he chose a different

method: a single entrance room with seven doorways radiating off it. (I've often wondered what the Borden case would have been like if it had taken place here, with all the participants tripping over each other in the same small entryway as they moved from room to room.)

As much as I craved accuracy, there were times when I simply had no choice but to guess in regard to colors and furniture. The parlor in particular remained a mystery. In such cases I tried to stay with objects that matched the Bordens' taste: the solid, dark hardwood furniture, little round decorative tables, and framed wall hangings of the day.

In the end, there's no substitute for the real thing. So one rainy Sunday, I drove to Fall River armed with a heavy-duty tape measure and a notebook, and paid a visit to the Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast, where I met the owners, Martha McGinn and Ron Evans. It was a pleasure to finally see in actual reality what I had been putting together in my mind.

The part of the house that I liked best was the basement. This was partly due to the fact that I couldn't find a description of its layout, but primarily because it was the least altered space in the house. The laundry room, fruit cellar, wood rooms, and back stairs still stand. As Ron pointed out to me, even the location of the walls of the tiny two-seat earth privy can still be seen. It was in the basement that I felt closest to the house as it was when Lizzie lived there, and it was after my visit that I began "construction" on my computer.

Virtual Reality And Virtual Reality Modeling Language

Virtual reality has to do with creating a "universe" that the observer can move through at will, seeing changes in the surroundings in the same way that one would see these things in the real world. Virtual models are constructed by combining images of geometric shapes in much the same way that actual objects are assembled in the real world. The trick of making such images appear three-dimensional on your flat monitor screen is an illusion created by your computer's calculation of where light or shadow should appear on each object.

Moving through a virtual universe means that for every "step" you take, your computer must not only recalculate changes in the angle of the lighting, but also how every object in the environment would appear from your new point of view. If the program used to generate the model is powerful enough to allow the addition of textures to the surfaces of objects (wallpaper, patterned carpets, etc.), your computer must recalculate the change in appearance of these features as well.

As you might imagine, all these mathematical necessities take a fair amount of computing power. This has always been a source of frustration for me because I always want to make my models as accurate and detailed as possible. I often wish that I and all the people I want to share my models with owned Cray super-computers, but creating models for ordinary home computers requires compromise for the sake of utility. My model of the Borden house has only one style of carpet, plain unpapered walls, and the same picture appears in every frame. (The picture is one I doubt the Bordens ever owned. Frederick Catherwood's etching of the Governor's Palace at Uxmal. It's meant as a sort of offhand reference to my main site.)

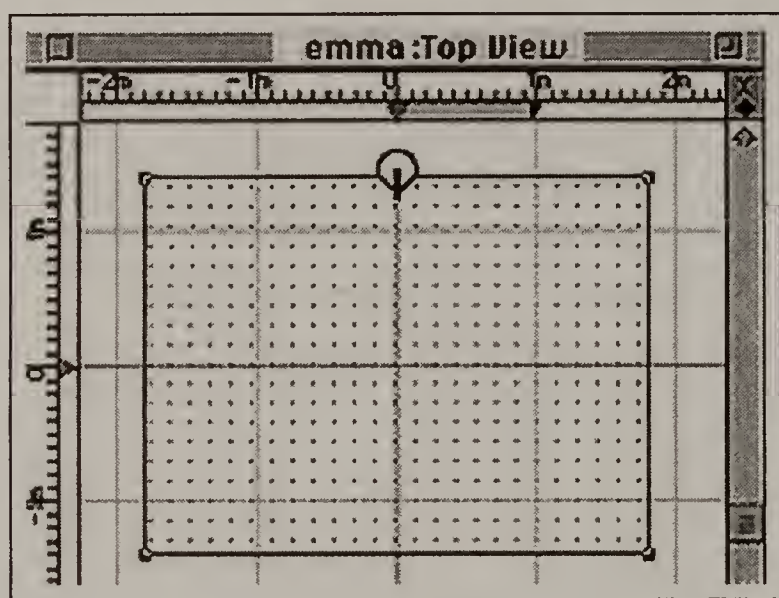
The Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRML) model has been made less detailed to increase efficiency. While the virtual

reality model is completely downloaded and stored on your own computer, VRML sends images to your computer directly from the host computer. If you have the necessary software installed in your web browser, your computer performs all the calculations described above while you are still online. This slows the process, as the rate at which you receive new information depends on the speed of your modem or other connection and how busy the host computer is.

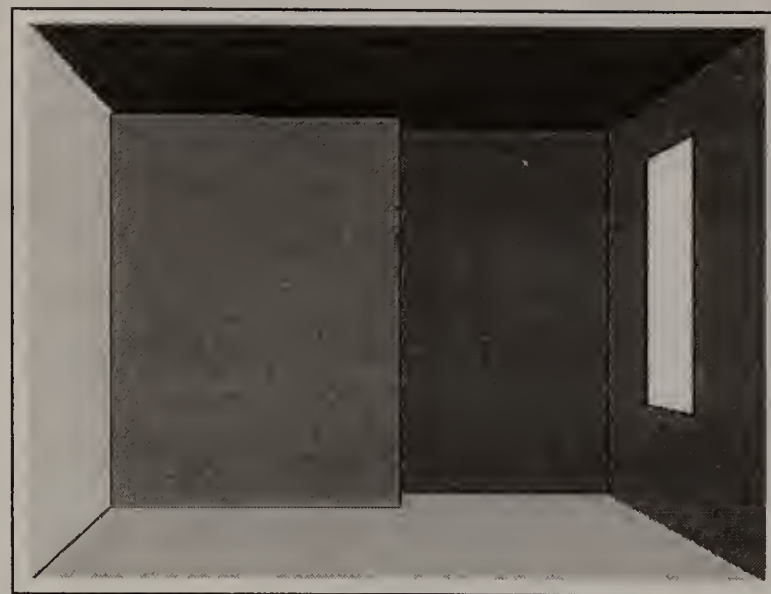
What do you need to create a virtual universe? I construct my models using Walkthrough Pro, (Virtus Corporation, \$495). There is now available a variety of similar software that can provide support for both virtual reality and VRML.

But as a practical matter, how do you do it? Poor Emma had the smallest room of all the Bordens, but its simplicity makes it useful as an example. So, let's go through the stages of "building" Emma's room.

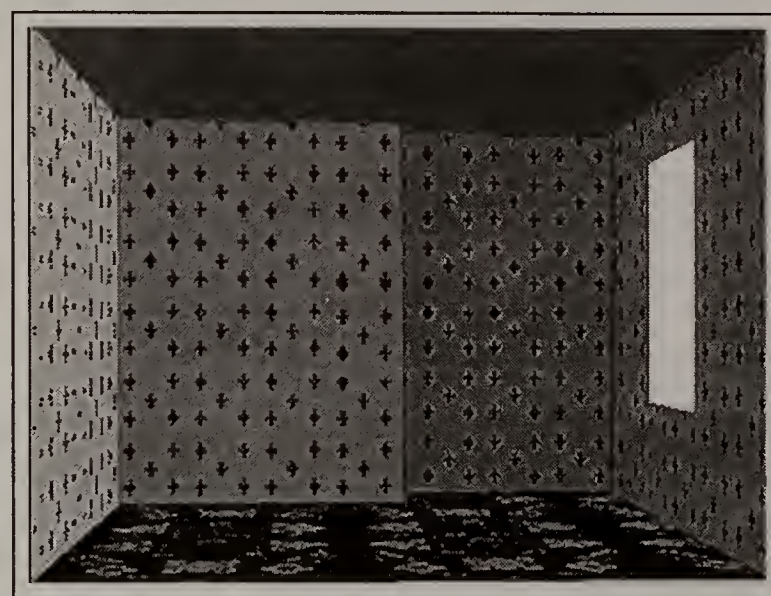
First, we draw a simple rectangular box and adjust it to the appropriate dimensions from both the top and front. The circle represents the position of the observer.



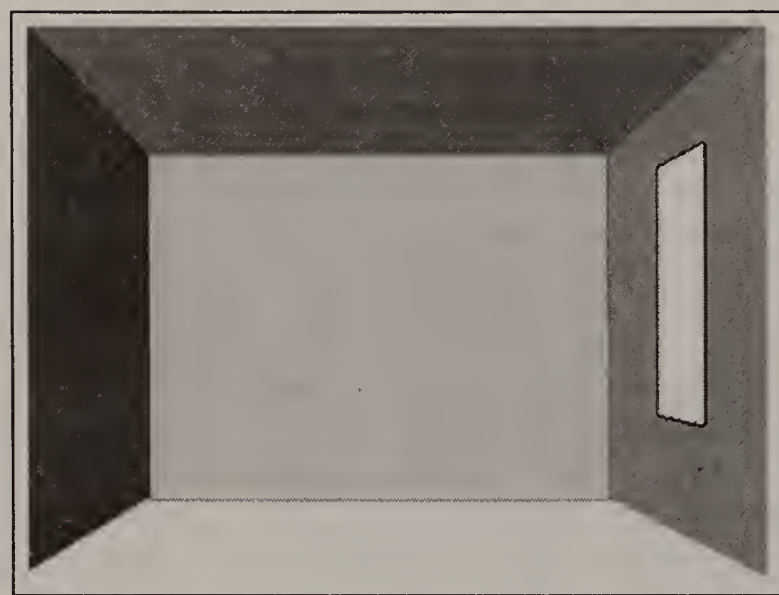
The inside of the room as it appears to the observer at this point. A transparent area is drawn on the north wall where Emma's window was.



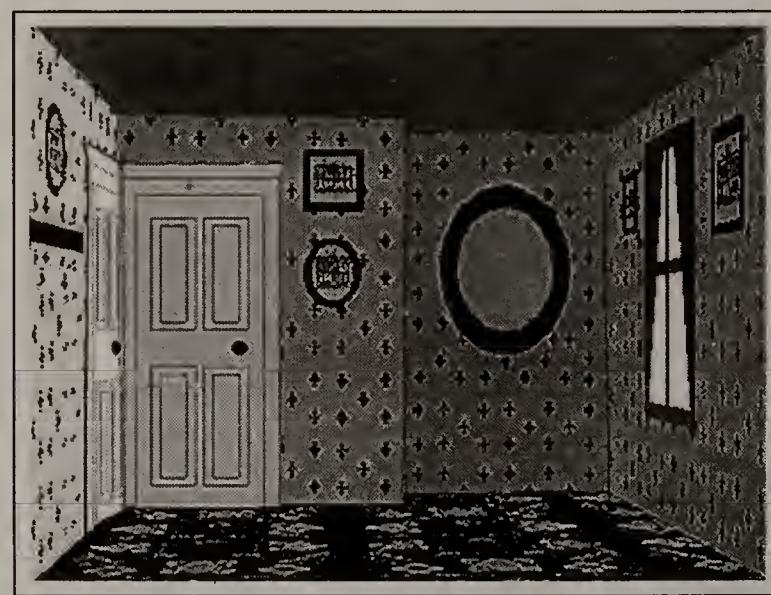
Patterned wallpaper and a floral carpet are added by applying picture files to the walls and floor.



We can now draw surface features on the walls of Emma's room. Some, like the doors and the window muntins, can be seen from both outside and inside the room. Others, like the pictures and the mirror, will be placed only on the inner walls.

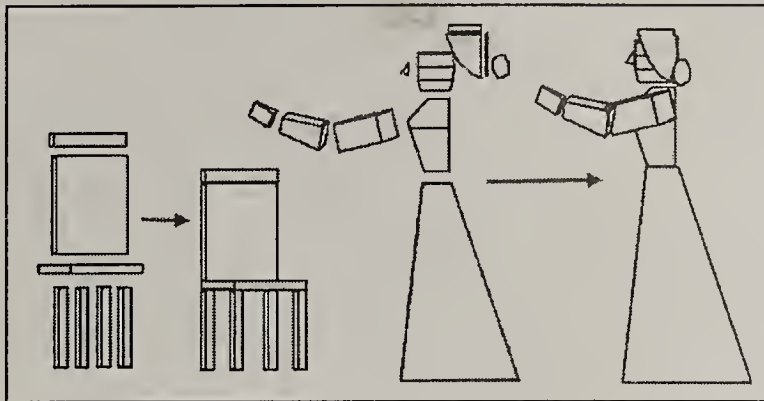


Next the direction of light and shadow must be adjusted to match the sole source of light in the room, the window. Two more rectangular structures will be added within the original to represent the closet and chimney on the west wall.

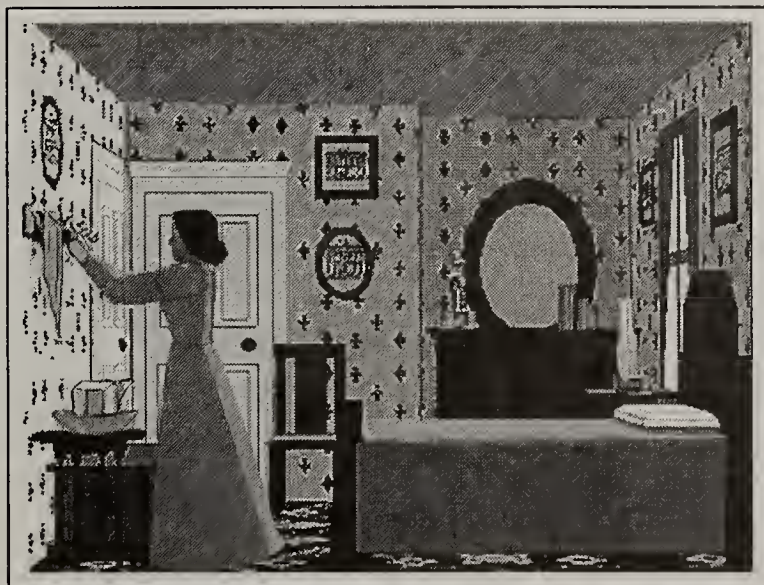


Three-dimensional objects inside a room are constructed in much the same way as the room itself. The necessary geometric shapes are drawn, adjusted to the proper size, colored, and assembled.

(Many VR programs come with assortments of pre-constructed furniture. But in cases where one is trying to duplicate actual objects, this method is very useful).



The final product: a virtual bedroom complete with a virtual Emma.



Since the virtual reality Borden house went online, I've been startled at some of the mail I've received. That I get all sorts of descriptions of obscure theories surprises me not at all. That it is often pointed out that something in the house doesn't match the TV movie surprises me even less.

But the range of the countries of origin of these missives surprises. Folks in the UK care about Lizzie, doctors in Australia named a diagnostic sign after her. Belgians have theories. Who in 1892 would have imagined that interest in the story of a woman from a small Massachusetts town would spread so far and last so long?

(Editor's note: Wait a minute folks, you ain't seen nothin' yet! In the next issue Ms. McNelly will take us on a tour through the entire World Wide Web and present a Show-And-Tell of Lizzie Borden Web Sites throughout the world.)

The Pearson/Knowlton Correspondence

(Continued from Page 7)

Letter Number 27:

November 23, 1923

Mr. Edmund L. Pearson,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Thank you very much for your very interesting letter of November 22.

I am glad that you had such a satisfactory visit at Fall River and to know that it will probably be productive of results.

Yours very truly,

FWK: ED

Letter Number 28:

December 8, 1923.

Mr. Edmund L. Pearson,
The New York Public Library,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Pearson:

I happened to find in my desk today the enclosed clipping from the Providence Journal under date of June 25, 1893, which is rather interesting. A duplicate of it may be in the files which I sent to you, but I rather think not.

You were going to send me, you may remember, a copy of the letter to Mr. Pillsbury, of which we spoke.

Very truly yours,

FWK: ED

Enc.

Letter Number 29:

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, January 23, 1924

Dear Knowlton:

I have been interrupted in my work on the Borden case for the past few weeks, but I enclose the letter to Mr. Pillsbury, about which we spoke. I have kept a copy of it, and will abide by your wishes as to whether I shall quote it, or merely refer to its contents, or be silent about it.

Sincerely yours

Edmund Pearson

Letter Number 30:

January 25, 1924.

Mr. Edmund Pearson,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Pearson:

I have your letter of January 23 enclosing the letter from my father to the Attorney General on April 24, 1893.

I saw Mr. Pillsbury yesterday, He is quite a cranky old fellow and it was a little hard to get an expression from him. At first he seemed to think the letter too unimportant to be of interest to anybody, and then upon re-reading it I think he saw that it was a little more than an ordinary letter, and finally said that whether he would feel any reluctance towards its use would depend largely upon the use that was to be made of it. He thought that if you could tell us in what way you intended to make use of the letter or let us see perhaps the first draft of your manuscript in which you refer to it, he could then tell whether it should be made public. Perhaps it is not important enough for you to go this far, but I feel a little sense of responsibility about it and I should be very glad to hear your reaction as to what he suggests.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 31:

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, January 26, 1924

Dear Knowlton, -

What I wish to do is either to quote the letter in whole or in part, or else to refer to the fact that the District Attorney, at that point in the history of the case, held the opinions which are expressed in it. It puts very clearly his sense of duty in going on with the prosecution - and I expect to make clear that he was justified in feeling this way - and it also predicts the ultimate outcome. It is new and unpublished material, and therefore of especial interest; it may be all that I shall have of this sort. Here was the chief law officer of the County, after the indictment had been found, but three months before the trial, absolutely convinced that it would be wrong to fail to proceed with the prosecution, and yet realizing that a conviction was practically too much to hope for.

I am going to describe, from the newspaper accounts and from Porter's book, the events at the time of the murders, and immediately subsequent to them, and then give a history of the trial in which all

these events were elaborated. I want to use the letter as one of the few bits of light which can be thrown upon the intermediate period; of course, I could leave out Mr. Pillsbury's name and the fact that the letter was addressed to him, but I would rather not do that.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund L. Pearson

Letter Number 32:

January 28, 1924.

Hon. Albert E. Pillsbury,
6 Beacon Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Pillsbury:

I enclose a copy of a letter that I have received from Mr. Edmund L. Pearson about the proposed publication of his account of the Borden trial. I think I gave you enough outline of the situation last week so that I can add nothing to the letter. I shall be glad to know how you feel about it.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Enc.

Letter Number 33:

ALBERT E. PILLSBURY
6 BEACON STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

29 Jan. 1924.

Dear Frank:--

This letter really adds nothing to the previous statement. If the matter were of any consequence I should like to see, when the time comes, a proof of the passage or passages in connection with which the letter is introduced, which is what I intended to suggest the other day. If this is too much trouble, you may do whatever you like in the premises. Personally I care nothing about it, one way or another. Thank you for calling my attention to it.

Very truly yours,

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,

30 State street

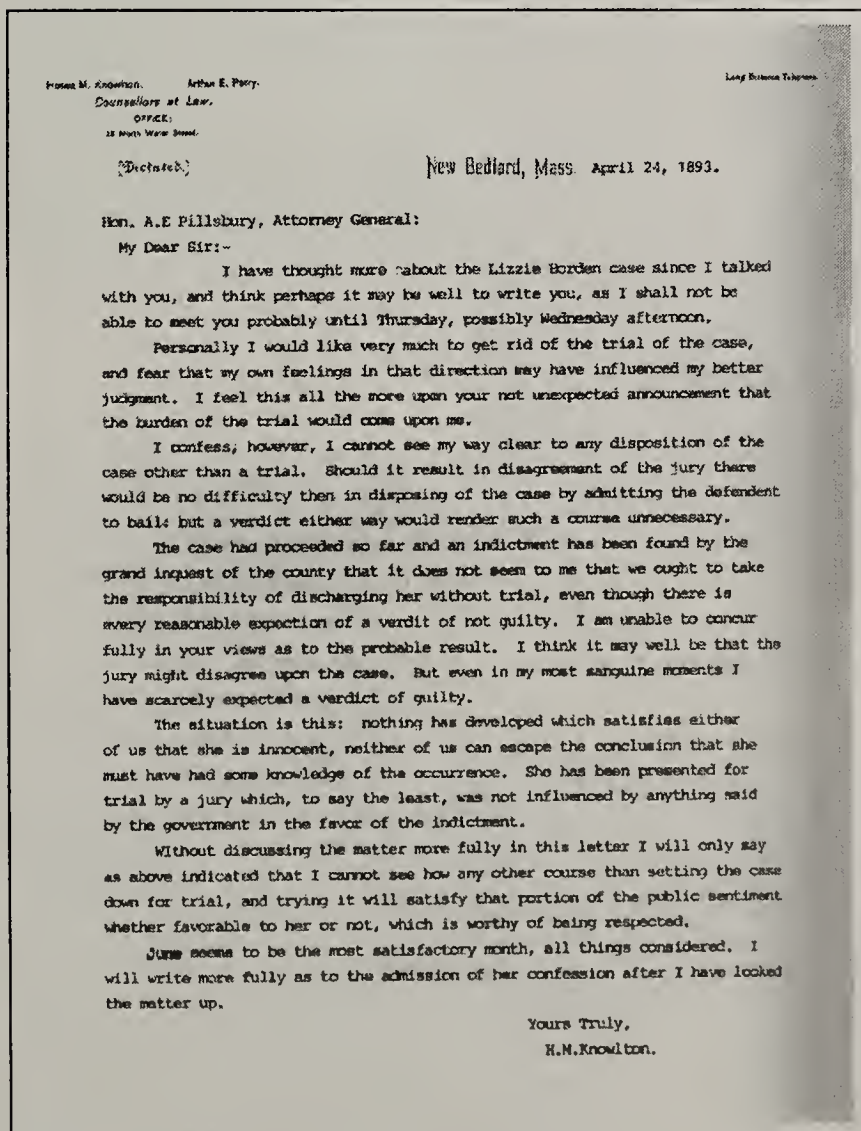
(Editor's note: O.K. guys. Enough already! Just what is this mysterious letter from Mr. Hosea Morrill Knowlton to Mr. Albert E. Pillsbury dated April 24, 1893? Well, right off the bat we know a few things. First, or course, Mr. Knowlton was Miss Borden's prosecutor, by virtue of being the District Attorney of

the Southern District of Massachusetts. Secondly, at the time of the Borden trial, Mr. Pillsbury was the Attorney General of Massachusetts. He played an active role in the case and even visited Mr. Knowlton to discuss it.

Also, by a careful study of the letters we can assume that Mr. Pearson and Mr. Frank Knowlton (son of Hosea) had some discussion about this letter between November 23, 1923 and December 8, 1923. But - Alas and Alec, the letter is not included in the Pearson/Knowlton correspondence.

All is not lost however. Thanks to the great research done by the late David Kent, the original letter was ferreted out and printed in its entirety on the twelfth page of pictures between pages 116 and 117 of his book "Forty Whacks." It is reproduced here courtesy of Mr. Robert A. Flynn who wrote the Foreword. ["Forty Whacks" by David Kent, published 1992 by Yankee Books in 1992.]

Incidentally, Mr. Pearson won out! Most of the letter was transcribed on pages 79 and 80 of his first book, "Studies in Murder." ["Studies in Murder," by Edmund Lester Pearson, published 1924 by the "Garden City Publishing Company," Garden City New York.]



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE ABOVE LETTER

April 24, 1893

Hon. A.E. Pillsbury, Attorney General:

My Dear Sir:

I have thought more about the Lizzie Borden case since I talked with you. and think perhaps it may be well to write you, as I shall not be able to meet you probably until Thursday, possibly Wednesday afternoon.

Personally I would like very much to get rid of the trial of the case, and fear that my own feelings in that direction may have influenced my better judgment. I feel this all the more upon your not unexpected announcement that the burden of the trial would come upon me.

I confess, however, I cannot see my way clear to any disposition of the case other than a trial. Should it result in disagreement of the jury there would be no difficulty then in disposing of the case by admitting the defendant to bail: but a verdict either way would render such a course unnecessary.

The case had proceeded so far and an indictment has been found by the grand inquest of the county that it does not seem to me that we ought to take the responsibility of discharging her without trial, even though there is every reasonable expectation of a verdict of not guilty. I am unable to concur fully with your views as to the probable result. I think it may well be that the jury might disagree upon the case. But even in my most sanguine moments, I have scarcely expected a verdict of guilty.

The situation is this: nothing has developed which satisfies either of us that she is innocent, neither of us can escape the conclusion that she must have had some knowledge of this occurrence. She has been presented for trial by a jury which, to say the least, was not influenced by anything said by the government in favor of the indictment.

June seems to be the month, all things considered. I will write more fully as to the admission of her confession after I have looked the matter up.

Yours Truly,

H.M. Knowlton

(Editor's note: Wow! Quite some letter that! Even though it was six weeks before the trial, and even though Lizzie's preliminary inquest testimony had not yet been excluded, and even though the Eli Bence testimony had not yet been excluded, Prosecutor Knowlton was convinced he would not receive a verdict of guilty!)

Letter Number 34:

January 31, 1924.

My dear Pearson:

I sent Mr. Pillsbury a copy of your letter and I have the enclosed reply from him.

He is an old crank and the letter is about what I expected it to be. I should say that you better go along with the matter and if you care to show him the galley proof or any part of the manuscript, doubtless you would find him acquiescent. However, he seems to have no decided objection.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

ENC.

Edmund L. Pearson, Esq.
476 Fifth avenue,
New York City.

(Editors note: More in the next issue)



"Finally! The long, cold winter is past. Spring has arrived and summer is just around the corner! Oh, I do feel but this summer of 1892 will be so exciting...."

Have you ever had a premonition? That unexplainable feeling that something may happen... something inevitable? A sense, a feeling, that *somehow*, things are about to change forever... or is it just a feeling? What person or persons really *knew* what would happen that one fateful day in August that would change so many lives forever? Did they know that the date of August 4 would live on in infamy; that people in the next century would still be trying to solve the mysterious murders of Andrew and Abby Borden, still trying to decide if the perpetrator was Lizzie...or Emma...Uncle John.... Bridget... someone else, perhaps?

Come visit the scene of the crime. See, touch, experience the aura of that long-ago era. Explore the rooms....listen for echos of what really happened. Relax in Victorian splendor and ponder the possibilities. Sleep in the room where Lizzie dreamed in the twilights; the room occupied by Uncle John Morse on August 3, or the room Andrew and Abby spent their last night. Was it a peaceful sleep? Did they have a premonition? *Will you????*

**For information/reservations call 508-675-7333 & E-mail Lizziebnb@earthlink.net
The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast & Museum & 92 Second Street & Fall River, MA 02721**

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERS

**Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391**

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fall River, MA
Permit No. 140**

Make check or money order payable to the

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERS

For new subscribers either remove the label and write your name and address or just write to us with the same information. Please include your check or money order.

Mail to:

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERS

Mr. Jules Ryckebusch - Publisher
Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River MA 02720-7391

If your label says - **Remaining Issues: 0** - Renew your subscription now!

Cut-out or duplicate coupon and mail today! Your Choice!

U.S.A. → 1 Year \$14.00 2 Years \$ 24.00

Non U.S.A. → 1 Year \$20.00 2 Years \$ 32.00

Affix mailing label here.

UMASS/AMHERST



312066016537160

THE

LIZZIE BORDEN
QUARTERLY

Volume V, Number 3

\$4.00

July, 1998

We Are What We Read:

EX LIBRIS LIZZIE BORDEN

By William Schley-Ulrich

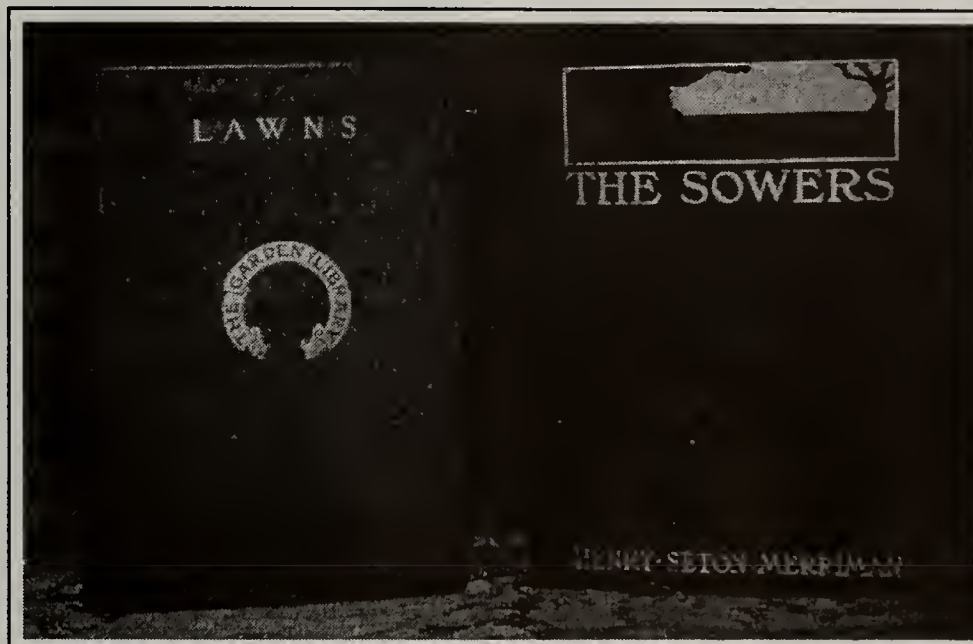
(Editor's note: I must shamelessly admit that this article is partially the result of my badgering abilities. There are those authors who reach a plateau that most of us can only view from a distance. Mr. Schley-Ulrich is one of that select group. He is welcomed back with much applause and anticipation.

This time, with the exercise of his penetrating logic, he has opened another page in Miss Borden's book, both literally and virtually.)

There is precious little to go on whenever we attempt to uncover the nuances of Lizzie Borden's existence. She was secretive, defied description and is, to put it mildly, a biographer's nightmare. Lizzie was precisely the sort of person about whom legends were created and who, with cynical mischief, lent substance to most of them.

She was as mute about what she read as she was about other aspects of her very private life. The only words we have from her own lips are those from the inquest testimony. Her diary may have provided a clue to her literary tastes, but if such a document ever existed it is now lost to the ages.

All behaviors serve a purpose and should not be dismissed out of hand. We must try to understand them in order to function and progress in this world as



Ex Libris Lizzie Borden

These two books were actually owned by Miss Lizbeth Borden at Maplecroft
Photograph courtesy of the Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast/Museum, Fall River, Massachusetts

informed human beings. There are no accidents in our choice of reading; all of our sources are interconnected and have significance. Knowledge of the books Lizzie prized is important for the influence it may have exerted upon the refinement of her innate faculties. The information we obtain may also indicate the direction of her interests.

When Lizzie moved to her new home on the hill, she was seeking more than modern indoor-plumbing and a horse-drawn carriage. What she truly desired was complete acceptance into the upper echelon of Fall River society. When that hope failed to materialize, she may have sought solace in her books. Well-to-do Victorian families had extensive libraries and the leisure time to take advantage of them and Miss Lizbeth, with her newly

acquired affluence, was no exception.

The mistress of Maplecroft had winter headquarters on the second floor where a suite of rooms housed her bedroom and library. How delightful it would have been to spend a few lazy hours browsing through these shelves, handling the books of romance and adventure she once treasured, wondering what stories she liked best and why. Late afternoon would have been the ideal time for such a delicious occupation with flickering shadows etching mysterious silhouettes of book-heros and book-villains in our minds.

There are certain authors whose works can be assigned, almost without question, to the Borden bookshelves: Tennyson, Longfellow, Dickens, Scott, Trollope, Twain, Kingsley and Thackeray. A full plate for any reader! With the exception of Scott, all of these writers are products of the Victorian period. I base these selections on the following references:

1. "Lizzie occasionally allowed a number of children to wander through her backyard at Maplecroft, while reciting the poetry of Tennyson and Longfellow. Lizzie would listen from her porch and if the day was cold, she would

(Continued on Page 12)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

A Different Menu:

On The Table This Issue:

- Ex Libris Lizzie Borden Page 1.
by William Schley-Ulrich
- Washing the Handleless Hatchet Page 3.
by William L. Masterton
- The Online Lizzie Borden - Part II Page 6.
by Nancy A.F. McNelly
- The Robinson Papers Page 7.
with Letters by Janie Shondell and Jules Ryckebusch
- Maplecroft in the News Page 9.
- The Broken Branch Page 19.
Remembering Ronald E. Evans

Standard Fare:



- BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN** Page 4.
by Lisa Zawadzki
- LIZBITS** Page 5.
by Neilson Caplain
- PRINCESS MAPLECROFT** Page 9.
by Mary T. Cusack

MISS LIZBETH BORDEN'S EDITOR SPEAKS

We had a difficult decision to make this issue. Concurrent with the July, 1996 issue we increased the number of pages from 16 to 20. This had occurred only one time previously, a double issue in 1995. The page increase allowed us to consider larger manuscripts, albeit from time to time we still faced a need to serialize.

This issue's headline article *Ex Libris Lizzie Borden* was one such lengthy piece, however, in our judgment, it was just too cohesive to break up. Consequently, it was necessary to delay serialization of the Pearson/Knowlton letters. For this we apologize, however, they will continue in the next issue. Thanks for understanding.

And, lest we forget, please check the mailing label on the last page. If you see **Remaining Issues: 0**, please renew your subscription. We save money by not mailing expiration notices. Your cooperation is requested. Renew your subscription today!

Maynard F. Bertolet
Editor

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

Volume V, Number 3, July, 1998

Publisher Jules R. Ryckebusch
Editor Maynard F. Bertolet
Copy Editor Jeannine H. Bertolet
Design and Layout Maynard F. Bertolet
Photographer Jeannine H. Bertolet

Staff Contributors:

Neilson Caplain
Mary T. Cusack
Lisa Zawadzki

Current Issue Contributors:

William Schley-Ulrich
William L. Masterton
Nancy A.F. McNelly
Jules Ryckebusch
Janie Shondell

Printing and Mailing:

Leary Press
234 Second Street
PO Box 1030
Fall River, MA 02721-2098

The *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* is published four times a year on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15. Distribution is by U.S. mail. Current one-year USA mail subscriptions cost \$14.00 and \$24.00 for two years. Non-USA subscriptions are \$20.00 for one year and \$32.00 for two years. The Editor reserves the right to edit and/or revise submissions, without changing intent. If possible, please submit articles on floppy disks in the IBM ASCII format. To be considered, submissions must be received 60 days prior to the publication date. In order for letters to the editor to be considered for publication, the author's name, address and telephone number must be included. Advertising rates are \$50.00 for a quarter-page, \$100.00 for a half-page and \$200.00 for a full-page.

Send all subscription payments to:

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Jules R. Ryckebusch - Publisher
Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391

Send all *LBQ* submissions, letters to the editor and address changes to:

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Maynard F. Bertolet - Editor
2 Blancoyd Road
Merion Station, PA 19066-1802
Telephone and Fax Numbers: (610) 664-2247
E-Mail: Bertolet@msn.com

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
(ISSN 1069-4900)

©1998 Bristol Community College
All rights reserved.

Unauthorized duplication prohibited by law.

WASHING THE HANDLELESS HATCHET

By William L. Masterton

(Editor's note: I must also confess to a certain amount of badgering with Mr. Masterton. His articles are always meticulously documented and researched. Based upon these traits, and his excellent writing ability, I boldly asked him to write another. Here is that welcome result.)

In 1961 Edward Radin, a distinguished true-crime author, wrote a book entitled *Lizzie Borden: the Untold Story*. In his description of the trial, Radin refers (p. 148) to Professor Wood's testimony about the handleless hatchet allegedly used by Lizzie to murder her father and stepmother. Wood started by saying that his chemical tests revealed no trace of blood on the hatchet.



Figure 1 - The Handleless Hatchet

On display in the Borden Room of the *Fall River Historical Society*

Photograph reproduced courtesy of the *Fall River Historical Society*

Then, according to Radin:

Asked by Knowlton if blood could have been washed from the hatchet so it could not be detected, [Wood] replied, "It couldn't have been done by a quick washing."

Q. [Knowlton] Why not?

A. [Wood] It would cling in those angles there and couldn't be thoroughly removed. The coagula would cling. It would have to be very thoroughly washed in order to remove it. It could be done by cold water, no question about that. But it couldn't be done by a careless washing."

Radin, who was convinced of Lizzie's innocence, interpreted Wood's testimony to mean that the handleless hatchet was very unlikely to have been the murder weapon. Lizzie scarcely had time to wash the hatchet at all, let alone carefully. I never questioned Radin's account of Professor Wood's testimony and apparently I was not alone. Since 1961 authors of at least two books on Lizzie Borden have repeated Radin's story.

It turns out that Radin was wrong. Wood did indeed make the statement quoted above but not in connection with the handleless hatchet. It's clear from the transcript or from newspaper accounts of the trial that Wood was talking about a claw-hammer hatchet which had been eliminated as a murder weapon.

The "angles" Wood referred to were openings between the handle and the blade. Blood entering these crevices would be difficult to remove by washing.

The situation was quite different with the handleless hatchet, shown here in Figure 1. Here, as Professor Wood pointed out, the portion of the handle that remained fitted tightly into the blade. Hence it would have been relatively easy for Lizzie to have washed blood off the handleless hatchet, providing she did it before breaking the handle.

On cross-examination, Wood conceded that washing all the blood off the hatchet might not have been all that easy.

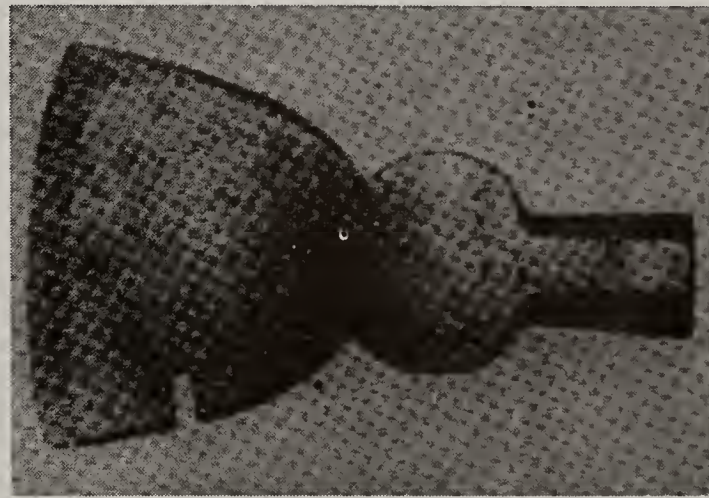


Figure 2 - The Handleless Hatchet

As pictured in *Lizzie Borden: The Untold Story* by Edward D. Radin

Published 1961 by Simon and Schuster, Inc.
Rockefeller Center - 630 Fifth Avenue
New York 20, N.Y.

Photograph originally printed in the *Fall River Herald News*

Q. [Adams] This slot on the inner edge of the head [visible as a rectangular indentation in Figure 1] furnishes a good refuge for any blood to gather?

A. [Wood] Yes, sir.

Q. [Adams] And it would have been quite a place to clean, assuming any blood got on it?

A. [Wood] It would and there is white dust in there. [suggesting that the hatchet had not been washed]

That should be the end of the story, but it isn't quite. From Figure 1, which is found in many books about the Borden case, it appears that the slot goes only part way through the blade. But that makes no sense. This is presumably a shingler's hatchet; the function of the slot is to make it possible to remove nails holding worn or broken shingles to a building. To do that, the slot has to go all the way through.

Michael Martins, Curator of the *Fall River Historical Society*, tells me that, contrary to what Figure 1 implies, the slot does indeed go completely through the blade. So far as I am aware, only one book has a photograph that shows this clearly: *Lizzie Borden: The Untold Story*, (between pages 50 and 51), shown here in Figure 2. In this case, Radin was right and just about everyone else was wrong.

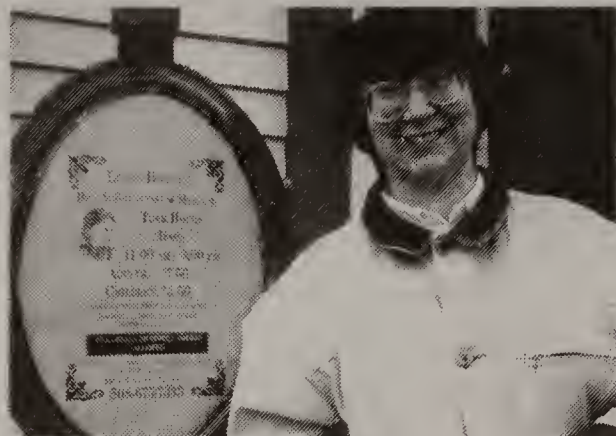
THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers! I have a great bunch of true crime readables for you to devour. If I can get my ancient Macintosh to cooperate for as long as it takes to write the column, I'll tell you about them. The keyboard is acting up something fierce. I'll upgrade someday.

But before we hit the books, let me tell you about the lovely time I had when I (finally) visited 92 Second Street. Mother and I had a very enjoyable time snooping about. It gave me a better appreciation of the events to actually view the layout of the house. It put many years of literary descriptions into perspective. What struck me most was how small some of the rooms actually are.

I was very nicely received by the people there. (Mother told them I was the Bibliographic Borden.) We chatted for a while after the tour, and I was graciously brought back into the house to look at a book I had seen in the sitting room. I would recommend the tour to one and all. It was very informative and well-done. And the gift shop was great. Speaking of that, I purchased a very interesting item while I was there.



Lisa Zawadzki

When she (finally) visited 92 Second Street

The Witness Statements

The Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast/Museum, [1998?]
Fall River, Massachusetts

This nifty little binder reprinted what appears to be reports of the various police officers covering the crime. Source documents are always fascinating to me. These let you follow along and examine the course of the examination. Some of the little details were quite fascinating. For example, Officer Doherty quoted Dr. Bowen as saying to him "in a low tone" that Mrs. Borden was dead, probably from the fright of having seen her husband's body!

We find out that from the very first day of the investigation the Fall River Police suspected that Lizzie was not telling all she knew. First-hand reports of the neighbor's and townfolk's gossip made for extremely humorous reading. The poor police spent many hours chasing down some rather dubious leads. There were some very active imaginations in Fall River during the summer of 1892.

I think everyone will enjoy this work. While it is short, (only 46 pages), it certainly has a lot to offer. I won't give away all the tidbits that the Fall River Police were told, but the last line will drive you crazy!

Neff, Fred:

Lizzie Borden in:

Mysterious Persons in History:

Baffling Cases of Unsolved Mysteries

Runestone Press, 1997, Pages 10 through 22

Minneapolis, Minnesota

A fairly good case was presented in this children's collection. The author summarized the key evidence, as well as some of the social aspects that shaped the events. He also mentioned some significant details, such as the fact that Lizzie was under the influence of morphine when questioned. Many adult works fail to mention this information. The author presented a well-balanced viewpoint, never naming a suspect.

There were a few problems with this otherwise good article. There were numerous spelling mistakes made with people's names. The author also stated that Lizzie was forced to confess (although perhaps under duress) to the murders after the Tilden-Thurber incident. This event was well-documented as a hoax by Radin, but here it is, presented as fact. To me, this ruined an otherwise good piece.

Langley, Andrew:

Lizzie Borden in:

Twenty Names in Crime

Marshall Cavendish, 1988, Pages 24 and 25

New York City, New York

Whereas the previously mentioned children's author at least tried for accuracy, this writer didn't even come close. I don't often find authors making this many factual errors in such a short story. Probably only E. Randall Floyd's *Lizzie Borden Took an Axe* equalled it. Even the illustration of the crime scene was incorrect.

The author stated that Mrs. Borden once killed a cat belonging to Lizzie. I can't remember reading this anywhere else. Does anyone recall having ever heard of this before? Please let me know.

Elfman, Eric:

The Very Scary Almanac

Random House, 1993, Page 57

New York City, New York

Since I'm on a children's book theme this issue, I'll throw in this quick mention of Lizzie. While the paragraph given about Lizzie was accurate, I objected to how she was treated. This book, which concentrated in Halloween type subjects and Fortean knowledge, placed Lizzie in a chapter called "Horrible Humans." Once again, Lizzie must keep company with real creeps like Ed Gein, Vlad the Impaler, and that nasty Countess Bathory. Even if she was guilty, she deserves better company.

That's all for now. Many thanks to Dave Snell from Tucson for his helpful letter about the song *Lizzie Borden* sung by the Chad Mitchell Trio. See you next issue.

by Neilson Caplain

(Editor's note: Let's take a walk with Andrew Borden up Second Street on that fateful day in 1892. In this issue, Mr. Caplain does just that! Once again, we are blessed with his superb research that allows us to share those actions so many years ago.)

A WALK ALONG SECOND STREET

On that August morning, as fate would have it, Andrew (excuse the familiarity) still felt queasy from the effects of his illness two nights before. Thus, when he concluded his business downtown, he decided on an early and unexpected return home. If he had finished his business at the Andrew J. Borden building, which was closer to home, he might have taken another route. However, let's surmise his last stop was at the Union Savings Bank, in which his walk would take him along Second Street.



A Walk along Second Street in Fall River, 1892

Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society

On Main Street, he crossed Pocasset, turned up Pleasant to Second. The day was not unseasonably hot but Andrew sought a bit of shade by crossing the cobblestoned street to the east side.

On the corner he encountered the three story *News* building owned by Almy & Milne, who supported Lizzie in her long ordeal. The building faced Pleasant Street, but the side ran along Second. The *News* fought competition from two other newspapers in the city, the *Globe* and the *Herald*.

Andrew then passed the wholesale grocery business operated by H.C. Hawkins & Bro. at Numbers 36-38. Behind the newspaper building, number 42 was occupied by David McDougall, a stair builder. Then followed the Cash House and Furniture store of Hart & Howland at number 44. Above the latter was the silver plating business of Thomas Gibney and John Beattie. Mr. Gibney proclaimed that "all articles pertaining to House, Coach, or Harness plated in the best manner."

Next, at number 46, came the Borden (rooming) House which advertised "Special Rates to Theater Troupes." There were eight guests in addition to the proprietor, clerks, and stable man. Next door, at the same address, George Holmes had his hack, livery, and boarding stable.

William Smith operated a carpentry shop at number 48,

specializing in theatre stage work and store fixtures. I find a notation among my notes that the building at number 50 was brick, but I have no further information on it.

At number 52 was Mary Holden's house. She took in boarders, at least three. Next door at 56 was the home of Joseph Mess, whose wife ran a confectionery shop at that location. Pierce & Hutchinson had a "Pictures" business at number 58.

The next building was numbered 62, a private home in which four families lived.

Andrew would then arrive at the corner of Borden Street. The Borden name commemorates the pioneers in the development of industry in Fall River, and Andrew could claim no honor due himself or any branch of his family.

There was a gentle rise on his way up Second Street, enough of a hill to give pause to an elderly man. Andrew rested for a few minutes before crossing Borden Street to the Union Plumbing Company at number 76. This company featured gas and kerosene fixtures, as well as steam and gas lines.

Further along, the widow Phoebe Warner took in boarders at number 78 and Mrs. Tripp operated a restaurant at number 80.

Before arriving home at number 92, Andrew passed by another boarding house, this one was owned by the widow Phoebe Burt at number 84, and then the Buffinton house, where Adelaide Churchill lived at number 90. Gazing beyond his own home, Andrew could see Dr. Kelly's house (number 96), Vernon Wade's grocery (number 98) and the home of Nathan Chace (100) at the corner of Spring Street.

From the forgoing it is noted that this part of Andrew's street had already become commercialized. I believe the buildings were of wood frame construction, each separated by narrow spaces. They did not rise beyond one or two stories. Readers will find a more general description of the area in the Lizbits column of October 1996.

Enough time and space has been devoted to the East side of Second Street and I hope our esteemed editor will provide space in the next issue of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* for a description of the West side.

EDMUND PEARSON

Of interest to the fans of Edmund Pearson is a recently published novel, *The Weight of Water* by Anita Shreve. It is a tale of love and heartbreak touched by the murders that took place on the island of Smutty Nose in 1873. Mr. Pearson wrote a factual account of the murders and is acknowledged in Ms. Shreve's Bibliography. Mr. Pearson is quite sure of the assailant in this case, although Ms. Shreve presents an entirely different, and logical, solution.

CORRECTION

To those of us who maintain a file of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* magazines, a correction is in order. In the Lizbits column, Volume III, Number 4, it is mentioned that the Buffinton house was built by the first Mayor of Fall River. Not so. It was built by Edward P. Buffinton, the father of Adelaide Churchill, who was no relation to the Mayor. Mrs. Churchill occupied the house at the time of the murders.

THE ONLINE LIZZIE BORDEN

Lizzie Links: An Assortment of Online Resources from the Serious to the Silly

By Nancy A.F. McNelly

(Editor's note: In the last issue, Ms. McNelly took us step-by-step through the process of virtually creating Emma Borden's Second Street bedroom. In this issue, she has made world-wide web searches and discovered several other sites that feature Miss Borden. For those who are a part of the internet, many pleasant and informative hours can be whiled away looking at alternative thoughts and viewpoints, or just plain fluff.)

BUT SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A FIEND

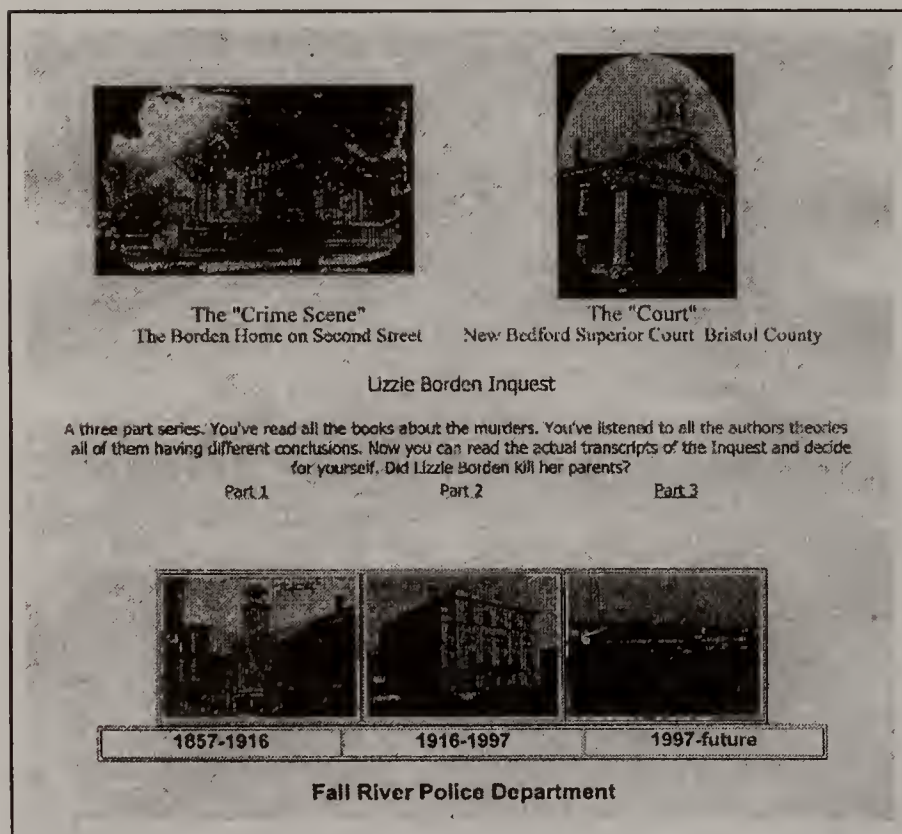
Gabriela Schalow Adler's thoughtful article on how Lizzie has been presented in the media. From the UCLA "Scary Women in Film" Symposium.

<http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/women/papers.html>

THE DEPUTY CHIEF 'S PAGE

No visit to the web in search of Lizzie-related material would be complete without a visit to Rick Thorpe's site. Rick, Deputy Chief of the Fall River Police Department, maintains a collection of high-resolution photographs, the text of the Borden inquest, Lizzie's will, a Borden family tree, and much more.

<http://web.meganet.net/digitech/>



Deputy Chief Rick Thorpe's Website

This is but one of many interesting pages on Chief Thorpe's site
Website page printed with permission of Deputy Chief Rick Thorpe

FALL RIVER

The history and geography of Fall River

<http://www.fallriver.mec.edu/frhistory.html>

FALL RIVER HOEDOWN

(You Can't Chop Your Pappa Up in Massachusetts)

This song, which is better known by a line from its chorus than its original title, was written by composer and author

Michael Martin Brown for the Broadway production *New Faces of 1952*. A shorter version was later recorded by the Chad Mitchell Trio in their album *A Mighty Day On Campus*, which can be purchased online from Total E (\$15.99 for the CD) at:

<http://www.totalE.com/>

If you'd just like to read the lyrics, mirror sites of the Digital Tradition song database include the text of the shorter version.

<http://www.numachi.com/cgi-bin/rickheit/dtrad/lookup?ti=FALLRIVR>

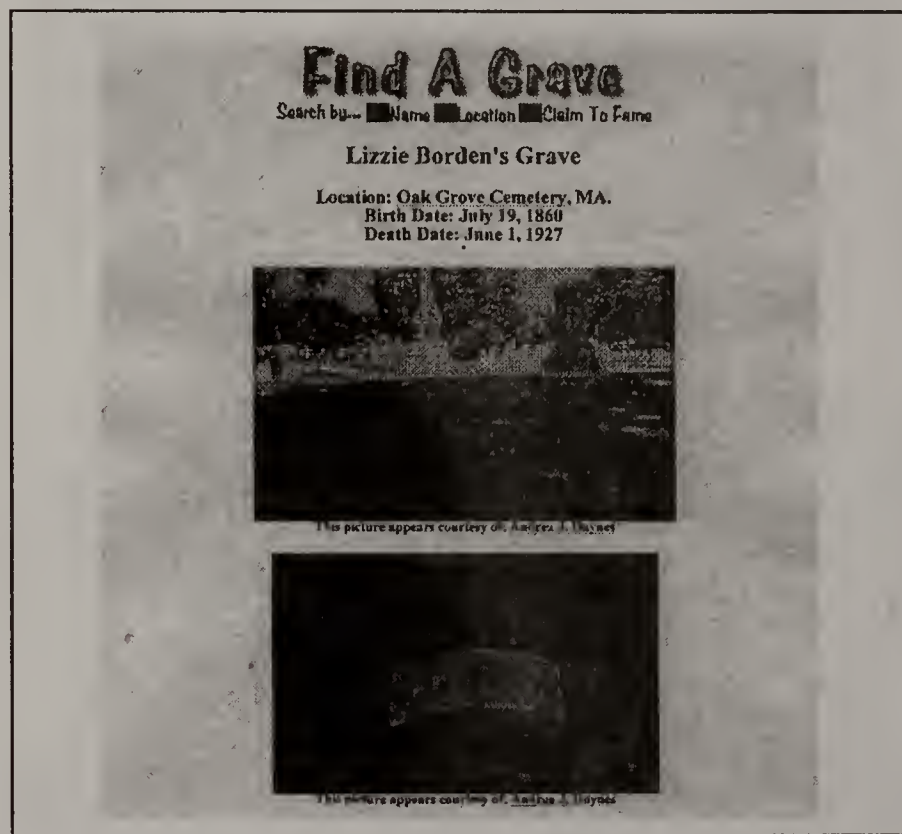
A modified version, substituting O.J. Simpson for Lizzie, has been making the rounds of various web sites. The original author remains unknown. Go to item number 36 at:

http://student-www.eng.hawaii.edu/goose/Jokes/R/oj_jokes.html

I'm attempting to see if I can get permission from the current copyright holders of the original Broadway recording to allow me to put it online in RealAudio.

FINDAGRAVE

Jim Tipton has an unusual hobby: he collects dirt from the graves of the famous dead. In the course of his travels, he's assembled a database of locations and pictures of the final resting



Find a Grave Website

One of many grave sites on Jim Tipton's site
Website page printed with permission of Jim Tipton

places of those he considers most interesting. Just enter a name at Tipton's interactive web site, and you may find not only a scanned picture of the individual's headstone, but a map to help you actually travel to it as well. For the Borden's, go to:

<http://www.findagrave.com/pictures/bordenl.html>

(Continued on Page 10)

THE ROBINSON PAPERS

(Editor's notes: It would appear that the Borden hatchet-murder case will never die. The latest news is about "The Robinson papers." As we all know, the Borden murder case lead Prosecuting Attorney was Hosea Knowlton. The Knowlton family donated Hosea's 1892 and 1893 previously unpublished papers to the Fall River Historical Society. The Society logically collated, edited and published this material. It is now available for all to study. There are a few copies remaining. Please contact the FRHS for details.

For some time now, we have been aware that the private papers of Miss Borden's lead Defense Attorney, former Governor George Robinson, have also survived the sands of time. While some minimal access overtures had been made previously, they remain unavailable. This entire subject recently came to life again in an article published in the April 14, 1998 issue of "The Providence Journal-Bulletin." Permission was granted for a one-time reprinting of the article by John J. Monahan, "Providence Journal-Bulletin" Managing Editor/Administration.

This article was reprinted in the "New Bedford Standard Times", which prompted our publisher, Jules Ryckebusch, to submit the following letter.)

TO: The New Bedford Standard Times

The possibility of the Robinson law firm of Springfield, MA, releasing the Lizzie Borden documents in their possession is very, very remote. I have been in correspondence with the firm since 1991. In July of 1992, Jeffrey L. McCormick of the law firm wrote to me the following:

"I have now been advised by Bar Counsel that, in the opinion of Bar Counsel and the Board of Bar Overseers, discussion of, or release of, any of the materials we have in our possession concerning Lizzie Borden would be a violation of the various rules and canons of ethics regarding confidentiality of client materials."

Mr. McCormick goes on to say that even the Bar Counsel agrees that "the materials we have in our possession are historically extremely interesting." The law firm, Robinson, Donovan, Madden & Barry, P.C., was founded by George

Letting Lizzie Borden Speak From The Grave Court ruling could make trial papers public

By PAUL EDWARD PARKER
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

FALL RIVER -- In a locked storage room on the 16th floor of a high-rise office building in Springfield, a five-drawer file cabinet may hold the secrets of Fall River's most enduring mystery: who killed Andrew and Abby Borden.

Only one man has the key to that locked filing cabinet, an administrator in the law firm that, more than a century ago, represented Lizzie Borden when she was acquitted of murdering her father and stepmother.

Since June 1893, the papers inside that filing cabinet have remained a secret between Lizzie and her lawyer, former Gov. George D. Robinson.

But all that may soon change.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case involving former White House aide Vincent W. Foster, who committed suicide in 1993. Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth W. Starr has demanded to see notes of a conversation between Foster and his lawyer just days before the suicide.

The high court will hear oral arguments in that case on June 8, with a decision expected in late June or early July.

The court will decide whether attorney-client privilege, which protects the secrecy of the relationship between lawyers and their clients, continues after the client dies.

It is the attorney-client privilege that has kept the Robinson papers out of the public eye for 105 years. Though Lizzie is long gone, her lawyer lives on, in the form of Robinson, Donovan, Madden & Barry, the law firm that succeeded Governor Robinson's firm.

The Supreme Court's pending ruling opens a tantalizing possibility to historians and Borden buffs.

"Would we like to look at Robinson's papers? Absolutely, of course," said George E. Quigley, president of The International Lizzie Borden Association.

Said Michael Martins, curator of the Fall River Historical Society: "Any documents that pertain to a case as notorious as the Borden case, a great unsolved murder mystery, would be of tremendous interest to researchers and scholars." The historical society is home to the largest collection of Borden material, including the papers of prosecutor Hosea M. Knowlton and City Marshal Rufus B.

Hilliard, Fall River's police chief at the time of the murders. "I'm sure it's an interesting collection," Martins said of the Robinson papers, "but I doubt there's anything that's going to prove the case."

What types of documents are in the collection are as mysterious as what the documents might say.

Bruce Lyon, administrator at the Robinson firm, said the collection includes newspaper clippings and other materials that were publicly available. It also includes a lot more material, he said, all of which is privileged.

Around the time of the 100th anniversary of the murders, in 1992, the firm consulted with the Board of Bar Overseers, the agency that oversees the conduct of lawyers. The board informally advised that not only does the attorney-client privilege bar the firm from releasing the papers, it prevents the firm from disclosing the nature of what it holds.

Lyon said the Robinson papers have been cataloged and placed in protective document holders, but he could not say anything more.

Speculation is that the files might contain letters between Lizzie and Robinson; letters between Robinson and other lawyers involved in the case; Robinson's notes, both strategic preparations and documenting how the trial progressed; and other documents relating to testimony at the trial and preliminary proceedings.

Few expect to find anything directly incriminating Lizzie, such as a signed confession. But the papers may hold bits of information that may have seemed inconsequential at the time that, viewed with a modern understanding of the case, might bolster one or more theories of the crime.

"Some things in there might be historical," Quigley said. "There might be statements in there that might be damning or might be helpful to her. There would be notes that Robinson wrote about the case that would be telling. Who knows."

Arnold R. Rosenfeld, a lawyer for the Board of Bar Overseers, said the Supreme Court's anticipated ruling may have no effect on the Borden file.

Rosenfeld explained that two principles guard the contents of a client's file: lawyer-client privilege and lawyer-client confidentiality. The first is what protects a lawyer from being ordered to divulge what is in files. The second requires that lawyers not divulge to the public material that might be embarrassing or damaging to a client.

The Supreme Court's ruling will probably only deal with whether lawyers can be ordered to divulge material relating to dead clients, Rosenfeld said.

But, he added, the Robinson firm might already be able to release the Borden file, if it is not embarrassing or damaging.

A Supreme Court ruling paving the way for release of the papers would only be the first step to their becoming public.

"That doesn't necessarily mean we'd do it," said Jeffrey McCormick, a partner in the Robinson firm. He said that contacting the bar overseers in 1992 was only a preliminary step; the law firm's partners had not yet decided whether they wanted to release material. Because the overseers said no, the firm never had to decide.

McCormick said that interest in the Borden file is fairly high, and that it is not unusual for him to receive letters requesting access to the papers. Those letters generally go unanswered, he said, though they are kept on file.

If the Robinson papers became publicly available and the law firm wanted to lend or donate them to the historical society, Martins would be happy to accept them, but added, "we wouldn't go after them."

Martins said the society, in such a case, would probably seek to publish the papers, a painstaking process involving years of transcribing handwritten notes. The society published prosecutor Knowlton's papers in 1994, and has been preparing the roughly 600 documents in Hilliard's papers, which are still several years from publication.

Despite the keen historical interest in the material, even Martins and Quigley are hesitant to advocate that the Supreme Court extinguish the attorney-client privilege upon a client's death.

Quigley noted that Foster has living relatives, who could be hurt by the release of confidential material.

"Lizzie, it doesn't matter," he said. "She's dead. She's dead a long time."

Martins thinks the privilege should be extended even to long-dead accused ax murderers. "Personally, I think Lizzie Borden bought and paid for her defense," he said. "Isn't it important that they protect the documents of their former clients? I think it's important that they do that."

Copyright © 1998 The Providence Journal Company, April 14, 1998.

Robinson, former governor of Massachusetts and the head of Lizzie Borden's defense team during her trial in New Bedford during June of 1893. The Honorable George Robinson, while governor, appointed Judge Justin Dewey to the Bench. It was Judge Dewey who read the charge to the jury at the Borden trial.

That's all history. Now Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr, in pursuit of notes taken by Vincent Foster's attorney days before Foster committed suicide, will submit a case to the U.S. Supreme Court on June 8 that will essentially argue that client-attorney confidentiality can end with the death of the client. This is interesting, but several legal considerations must be faced.

- (1) This case does not seek a Constitutional interpretation that would affect the evidentiary rules of any state.
- (2) A special limited consideration will most likely be sought that could only apply to a significant government official whose relationship with his/her attorney had particular government or national security importance. (Lizzie's papers don't fall into this realm.)
- (3) No court would automatically stop client-attorney confidentiality upon the death of the client.
- (4) This confidentiality was broken in the Sam Shephard case.

So where does this leave us? Pretty much where we are now, but with one interesting possibility. Should a time limit be set with attending circumstances? Probably. The Borden case is a fine example, and Mr. McCormick agreed with me when we discussed it over the phone. Lizzie's case ended in acquittal 105 years ago. There are no living direct descendants of any of the major players. The case has great historical and legal importance.

Should the Supreme Court in its wisdom decide that a time limit should be set, and that 100 years following all client-attorney correspondence should be that limit, then I will rejoice.

Sincerely,
Jules Ryckebusch, Professor, Bristol Community College

(Using an internet connection I found the following Associated Press wire report. The piece was printed in several newspapers.)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) -

No, they didn't lock up Lizzie Borden for the hatchet murder of her parents.

But they did lock up her lawyer's papers.

Even now, 105 years later, the papers remain hidden from public view, even though they are probably the last great body of fresh historical evidence on one of the most sensational episodes in legal history.

The papers are in a locked room inside a file cabinet on the 16th floor at the Springfield law firm founded by George Robinson, Borden's lawyer.

Some of today's researchers and enthusiasts of the trial believe the claims of history override the obligation of confidentiality the long-gone lawyer had to his long-gone client. In particular, they want to know whether the files contain a confession.

"Certainly client-attorney confidentiality is valuable, but I think 100 years is a fair amount of time," said Jules Ryckebusch, a Bristol Community College professor, who publishes the Lizzie

Borden Quarterly newsletter. "They're a very important part of history."

John Corrigan, who teaches at the law schools at Harvard and Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I., said, "At some point, the legitimate claims of history outweigh embarrassing somebody 300 years after his death."

However, Arnold Rosenfeld, a lawyer for the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers, has cautioned the firm about making the papers public. The board forces ethical standards among lawyers.

"The duty to protect confidential information survives death in Massachusetts," he said in a recent interview. "That's clear. There's case law."

Borden was charged with hacking to death her father, who was a wealthy businessman, and her stepmother at their Fall River home in 1892.

A jury acquitted her in about an hour, but many still believe she got away with murder.

Jeffrey McCormick, a partner at the firm of Robinson, Donovan, Madden & Berry who has browsed through the two drawers' worth of papers, refused to say what the files hold.

"Historically, they can be interesting to read," Mr. McCormick said. Then, with a faint grin, he added, "I'm not saying that there's some smoking gun in there."

The firm considered releasing the papers in 1992, on the centennial of the murders. But it backed away after seeking advice from the Board of Bar Overseers.

Borden, who lived out her days as a social outcast of high means, died in 1927 without ever marrying. Thus, the Springfield firm has no direct descendants who might advise it on the future of the papers.

(One of the many newspapers who carried the wire report was "The Toledo Blade," from Toledo Ohio. One of its readers is an LBQ subscriber who wrote to us and expressed her thoughts.)

May 27, 1998

Dear Editor,

I am a subscriber to the LBQ and quite an avid fan of the infamous mystery. I have visited the Bed & Breakfast twice and find it quite fascinating.

I just felt I should write and offer you my support in your efforts to get Mr. Robinson's papers on Lizzie opened up and made available for study.

I agree with the Massachusetts Board of Overseers that confidentiality is vital, sometimes even past death. However, when this much time has elapsed and no one even vaguely connected with the family (or the scandal) is still alive, I believe the priority switches to its historical value. I believe history certainly does have a legitimate claim, at this point in time.

Also, it's not as if none of the trial documents have been made public, they all have, except for these.

Therefore, I don't believe there should have to be a battle here. History should now lay claim to those papers.

You know, the fact that they are fighting so hard to keep the papers sealed really makes you wonder WHO really has something to hide? What is the real truth that the courts don't want to come out - is it Lizzie's guilt or innocence; or is it something else altogether? ...

MAPLECROFT IN THE NEWS

The enclosed article appeared in one of our local newspapers. Quite interesting.

Thank you for your wonderful publication and good luck on your future endeavors regarding these legal papers. I'll be watching for updates.

Sincerely,

Janie Shondell

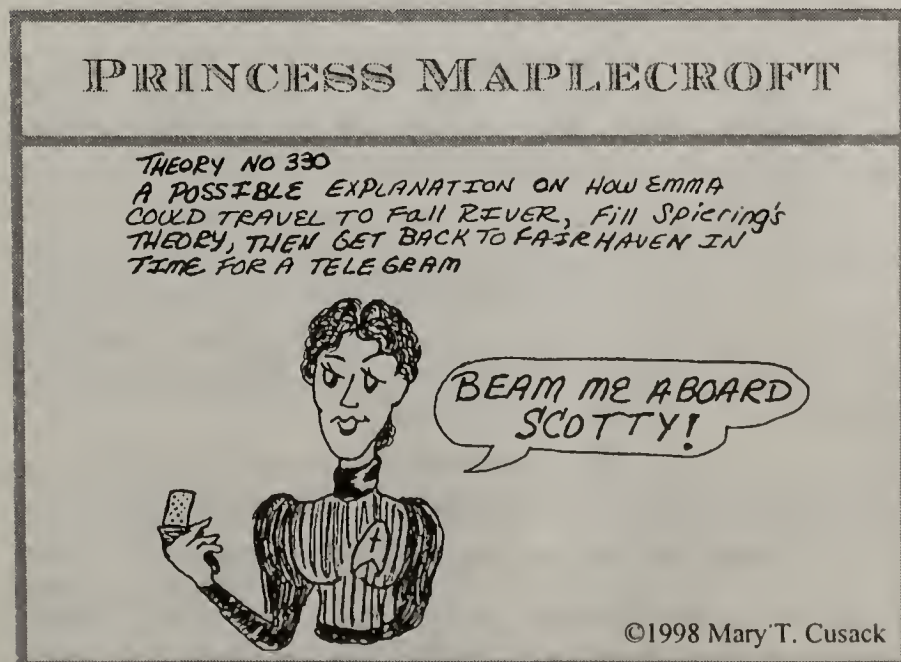
(My response to Ms. Shondell contained an analysis of the matter with the facts that are known at the present time. Part of that response follows, with the caveat that, if additional information surfaces, the logic may very well change.)

The Robinson papers should be of great interest to *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* readers and I appreciate your support in this matter. Truth to tell though, even if they were released, I do not expect any revelations or secret information.

As you are probably aware, the *Fall River Historical Society* was given the entire cache of Prosecuting Attorney Hosea Knowlton's papers relating to the Borden hatchet-murders. Mr. Michael Martins and Mr. Dennis Binette devoted literally hundreds of hours editing them. While they proved very interesting and brought forward much collateral data, no new facts were uncovered. I rather believe the same might possibly be true for the Robinson papers.

Lawyers are not usually interested in providing gratis information for public interest and edification. One possibility might be that none of the partners in the firm have actually taken the time to acquaint themselves with the data. Your *Associated Press* release supports this premise stating that one of the partners "browsed through two drawers' worth of papers." With no client in sight, they might possibly react with their normal cautious manner.

(We will put this matter on hold for now. If any of the readership discovers additional information, or has other thoughts on the subject, write and tell us!)



After Lizzie Borden was acquitted of murder, she and her sister Emma moved from their Second Street house where the murders of their father and step-mother took place. They chose a more affluent Fall River location at 306 French Street. After an altercation between the two sisters, Emma left this house never to return, and Lizzie stayed on for the balance of her life. She seemed to delight in her new surroundings and conferred the title *Maplecroft* on her new home.

Your Editor recently had the opportunity to interview the current owner of Maplecroft, Mr. Robert J. Dube. He had issued a press release indicating some interesting plans for the post-trial home of Miss Lizbeth A. Borden. On May 28, 1998, Mr. Dube filed a request with the Fall River Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance to open a bed and breakfast business at Maplecroft for tourists, visitors and Lizzie Borden enthusiasts. Since then, the request was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dube explained that "There are always people coming by, ringing the bell and asking if they can see the house." These inquiries caused Mr. Dube to consider opening a bed and breakfast. "I will make available Lizzie's summer and winter bedrooms, as well as the one Emma used during her residence here," he explained.

In addition, he would like to negotiate with the owners of the Borden's Second Street property to jointly offer package deals featuring stays at both houses.

Ms. Anna Duphiney, Business Manager of the *Fall River Historical Society*, advised that Maplecroft is located in the Fall River nationally registered historical area, according to *A Guide Book to Fall River's National Registered Properties*, published in 1984. Fall River Mayor, Edward M. Lambert, Jr., is quoted in the May 21, 1998 *New Bedford Standard Times* as claiming he would like to see Fall River become a bed and breakfast capital and make use of the city's many Victorian homes.

Mr. Dube indicated that *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* subscribers may call him direct at (508) 673-8088 for additional information.

Lizzie's Stepping Stone

When Mr. Dube purchased Maplecroft in 1980, the prior owner passed on that this stone had been used by Miss Borden to step on from her carriage.

Photograph by Jeannine Bertolet




THE ONLINE LIZZIE BORDEN

(Continued from Page 6)

THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL FOCUS

A case history of a disturbed young man who removed his younger brother's heart after he learned the boy had been reading a book about Lizzie Borden..

http://www.med.harvard.edu/publications/Focus/Apr26_1996/Psychiatry.html



The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast


Fall River, Massachusetts

**Experience First Hand
A Piece of Grisly 1890's Americana**

"Lizzie Borden took an axe and gave her mother forty whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father forty one."

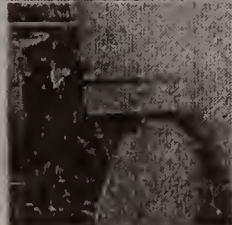
Grisly 1890's Americana

The brutal axe murder of Abby and Andrew Borden and the subsequent trial of their daughter, Lizzie Borden, held the rapt attention of the American public. It was said Lizzie had a hatred for her step mother and her strict and miserly father. And on a hot August day in 1892 murdered her parents. She was found not guilty, but history and popular culture has rendered its verdict differently. Until now the house has remained as a private residence, but now as a bed & breakfast you can stay in the Lizzie Borden House (*If You Dare!*) and experience a unique piece of grisly 1890's Americana - The Lizzie Borden double murder.



Stay In The Andrew & Abby Borden Suite

Fall River, located off of 95 between Cape Cod and Rhode Island, provides an unusual convenience to experience this curious inn. Refurbished to its original look at the time of the murders, the Lizzie Borden B&B provides if not a slightly restless night (it's said to be haunted), then a trip back in time to Lizzie's notorious adulthood.



The Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast and Museum

To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub
Website page printed with permission of Martha McGinn

KILLER FONTS

Are you looking for a truly special way to write that next letter to Mom and Dad? Stuart Shapiro and Ted Ollier have the answer. For \$9.95, you can print your text in Lizzie's own handwriting instead of the usual boring old Times Roman or Helvetica.

After researching examples of the penmanship of a few well-known killers, such as Jack the Ripper, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Charles Manson, Shapiro, an independent film producer, and Ollier, a fontographer, started a small online service where these unique fonts could be downloaded immediately. The desire for the handwriting of both the famous and infamous has grown steadily, as has killerfonts.com, which now includes the scribblings of non-murderers as well. Take advantage of their special 3-font bargain package, and you can create a correspondence between Lizzie, Leonardo Da Vinci, and George Washington.

<http://www.killerfonts.com>

THE LEGEND OF LIZZIE BORDEN

The 1995 made-for-TV movie starring Elizabeth Montgomery. I was hoping that I could provide information about where it could be purchased online, but I've since been told it's no longer in distribution. There are a number of online services that specialize in used videos. For a list, see:

http://www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Companies/Entertainment/Video/Tape_Sales/

You can find a list of the cast and contribute your own rating of the film (from 1-10) at:

[http://us.imdb.com/M/title-exact?Legend+of+Lizzie+Borden%2C+The+\(1975\)+\(TV\)](http://us.imdb.com/M/title-exact?Legend+of+Lizzie+Borden%2C+The+(1975)+(TV))

THE LIZZIE BORDEN BED AND BREAKFAST AND MUSEUM

Want a shot at the real thing? Martha McGinn operates the Second Street house as the Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast and Museum. Take a tour or spend the night.

<http://www.lizzie-borden.com/>

LIZZIE BORDEN: A FAMILY PORTRAIT IN THREE ACTS

While composing this opera, Jack Beeson and Kenward Elmslie fiddled with the facts of the Borden case for dramatic effect (turning poor Abby into a gold-digging vamp is probably the most extreme example), but the emotional logic of the plot is internally consistent and wholly believable. The CD can be purchased online for \$29.49 at:

<http://www.totalE.com/>

LIZZIE BORDEN: HASH & REHASH

A documentary made by director Immy Humes in 1995. It is available from Filmmakers Library, sale price \$295, rental price \$55. (*Editor's note: For a review of this film please see Page 18 of the January, 1997 Lizzie Borden Quarterly.*)

<http://www.filmakers.com/>

A review of this film is online at:

<http://www.worth.com/articles/Z9603U04.html>

THE LIZZIE BORDEN MESSAGE BOARD

The *Darkrose* site maintains an area where anyone visiting can write comments about the Borden case.

<http://www.darkrose-bds.com/wwwboard/wwwboard.html>

LIZZIE BORDEN UNLOCKED

The *Yellow Tulip Press* provides the most detailed online synopsis of the case, *Lizzie Borden Unlocked* by Ed Sams.

<http://gate.cruzio.com/~ytulip/cntnts.html>

LIZZIE BORDEN, A WOMAN ACCUSED

The Arts and Entertainment Channel's Biography program, *Lizzie Borden, A Woman Accused*, can be purchased online for \$19.95 at:

<http://www.aetv.com/>

Follow the links to the A&E Store and then to Biography.

LIZZIE BORDEN: A MUSICAL TRAGEDY IN TWO AXE

As far as I can ascertain from the site, this musical, written by Michael Wanzie and Rich Charron, has only been performed in Orlando, Florida, although the principals long for its eventual

migration to Broadway. Based on the single reviewer's quote they include, I briefly considered buying the tape recording. Very briefly.

"The vomit song speaks for itself!"

Elizabeth Maupin - Theater critic - *The Orlando Sentinel*.

<http://www.flamingopark.com/skin/lizzie.html>

LIZZIE: OR BETTER AN OUTLAW

This play by Terry Maloney was first performed in San Francisco, and centers more on Lizzie's relationship with Nance O'Neil than on the murders. One of the few sites where an online picture of Nance can be found, it also has a brief chronology of the crime. Site maintained by Robyn Fowler.

<http://www.sirius.com/~rlf/lizzie/chronology.html>

<http://www.sirius.com/~rlf/lizzie/Nance.gif>



NANCE O'NEIL

Aloof - Alluring - Attractive

Photograph: San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum

THE ONE STEP BEYOND DATING SERVICE

A running joke from the creator of the online magazine Millard (after Millard Filmore). Date the dead person of your dreams, including Lizzie, who is looking for a man with a sense of humor, through a special 900 number in Lilydale, NY. [For those of you who are unfamiliar, Lilydale is a privately-owned hamlet occupied entirely by spiritualists. Knock on any door and someone inside will be glad to give you a reading.]

<http://www.millmag.com/dating.html>

REDHEADS INTERNATIONAL

Redheads International is the world's largest and oldest society dedicated to celebrating red-haired folks. They proudly embrace Lizzie as one of their own, and include a spot for her in their encyclopedia.

<http://www.redheadclub.com/>

<http://www.redheadclub.com/visitors/ency.html>

ROADSIDE AMERICA

This traveler's guide reviews the *Fall River Historical Society* and the *Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast and Museum* with its usual tongue-in-cheek approach. There are pictures of the Society's "Borden Room," and of all things, Andrew Borden's skull (read "Daddy Dearest"). Addresses and directions are included.

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/MAFALLiz.html>

SOPHISTICATED ALLIGATORS

Have you ever wondered what Lizzie would have looked like had she been born an alligator? Neither have I. But Noël Miller has and she includes a drawing of Lizzie in her book *Sophisticated Alligators*. The book's illustrations are also available as prints.

<http://www.access.digex.net/~gators/>



LIZZIE AS A "SOPHISTICATED ALLIGATOR"

One of many "Sophisticated Alligators"

Copyright ©1996 by Noel Miller

UNIVERSITIES AND LIZZIE

INDUCTIVE APPROACHES TO HISTORY: THE LIZZIE BORDEN CASE STUDY

The *University of Massachusetts* at Amherst offers a Borden-based course with an eye toward teaching students how to do research on historical subjects. Of special interest to non-students are the eight consecutive quizzes and other requirements presented online. So, you think you know the Borden case? Let's see if you could pass this course.

http://lizzie.cs.umass.edu/lizzie/Student.dir/Modules.dir/module_1.dir/module_1.html

Then, go to Q&A for the quizzes.

(Editor's note: Please do not send any answers to the University. While they are willing for us to advertise their site, they do not wish correspondence.)

(Continued on Page 18)

EX LIBRIS LIZZIE BORDEN

(Continued from Page 1)

invite them in and reward them with cups of hot chocolate."

Lizzie, Frank Spiering, Random House, New York, NY, 1984, page 219.

(This statement by Spiering appears to be rather nebulous. Did the children select poems by Tennyson and Longfellow because they knew Lizzie admired them? I believe it is more likely she taught them certain poems written by her favorite writers, so she could enjoy their recitation.)

2. Grace Harley Howe, Lizzie's second cousin and the wife of the man who was to become advisor and secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, inherited several sets of well-bound books from Lizzie Borden's estate. Among them were volumes by Dickens, Scott and Trollope.

Agnes de Mille: *Lizzie Borden, A Dance of Death*, Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1968, page 86.

3. In 1951, a news reporter visited Grace Harley Howe at her home on 141 Martha Street. In her living room he saw a beautiful rug which once graced the drawing room floor of Maplecroft. On a shelf he saw books by Mark Twain, Kingsley and Thackeray that were once the property of Lizzie Borden.

Cousin Grace Harley Howe, Judith Paula Curry, *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, Vol. 4, No. 1 January, 1997.

I have been informed by Mr. Dennis A. Binette, Assistant Curator of the *Fall River Historical Society*, that the only book in the possession of the Society formerly belonging to Lizzie is a travel book entitled, *Italy*.

Mr. Binette further states he has knowledge of the existence of a number of other volumes, whose owners wish to remain anonymous. A collector in the Boston area visited the Society two years ago with a set of books by William Makepeace Thackeray, bound in blue-green cloth with gilt lettering. He desired to verify the Lizzie Borden signature on the flyleaf of his books with authenticated signatures in the Society's archives.

Lizzie's will gave first selection of her books to Helen Leighton, a close friend and the founder of the *Fall River Animal Rescue League*. I find no references listing the authors or the titles of these books. The Fall River Library had no information on the present whereabouts of any of Lizzie's books.

Why did the stories of certain writers appeal to Lizzie? The synopsis of their works that follows may provide us with a small window into the mind of this New England spinster, a woman who has puzzled and mystified so many of us for so long.

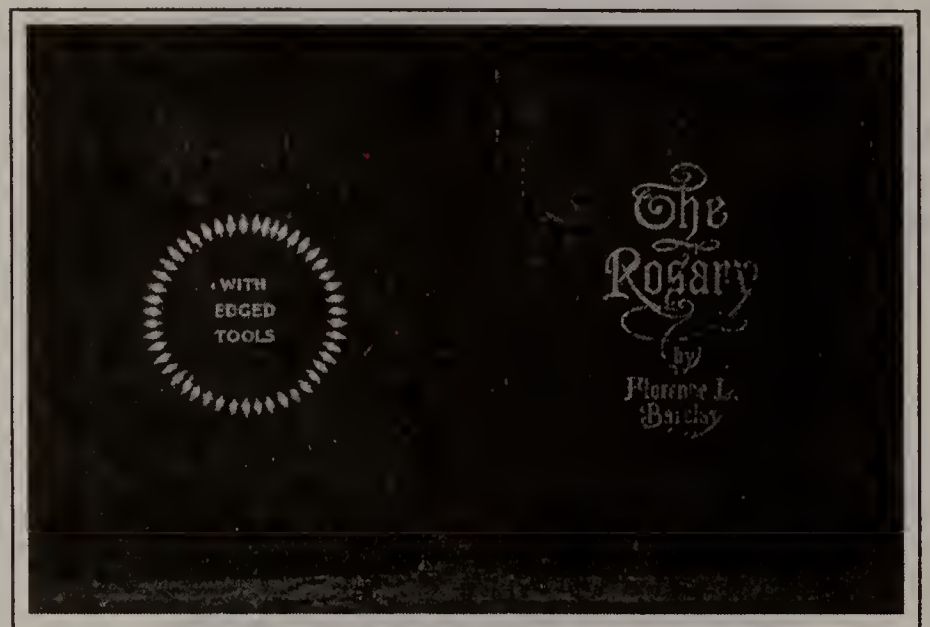
"People are always silent
when one quotes good Tennyson.
They prefer it to be awful, and then they can shout,
"My God!"

- G. B. Stern -

Born into a large family in 1809, Tennyson spent his early years in Somersby, Lincolnshire. The rich pastoral surroundings

of his birthplace fueled the imagination of this young poet, and is reflected in his early work. He entered Cambridge with his brother and soon became a close friend of Arthur Hallam. A few years after they matriculated, Hallam died suddenly. Tennyson was stunned. Many years later he wrote his masterpiece, *In Memoriam* which was dedicated to Hallam. The work was an immediate success and Tennyson was named poet laureate of England by Queen Victoria in the same year.

Tennyson's earlier contribution to literature was two volumes entitled *Poems*. England had long been ready to acclaim a new voice in poetry and *Poems* seemed to provide ample proof that this new voice was to be Tennyson's. The book assembled a great many of Tennyson's best and most characteristic works: *Oenone*, *The Lotus Eaters*, and *The Lady of Shalott* all published previously. Among those published for the first time were *Morte d'Arthur*, *Ulysses* and *Break, Break, Break*. Carlyle, Emerson, Hawthorne and especially Poe were rhapsodic in their praise of Tennyson's work.



Ex Libris Lizzie Borden

These two books were actually owned by Miss Lizbeth Borden at Maplecroft
Photograph courtesy of the *Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast/Museum*, Fall River, Massachusetts

The several episodes of *The Idylls of the King* written over a long period of time tells of the continuing story of the legendary King Arthur, from his supernatural birth to his supernatural death. It relates the ideals in the establishment of the Round Table and is filled with tales of perfect knights in shining armor and beautiful ladies with lowered eyes, flirting behind their fans. Tennyson's well-known poem, *Charge of the Light Brigade* was published in 1854 and immortalized a heroic and disastrous incident in the Crimean War.

Gilbert and Sullivan's operas always had topical themes, something that everyone was discussing at the time. *Princess Ida* opened in 1884 at the Savoy Theater in London. It was a respectful parody of Tennyson's *The Princess*, a surprisingly modern story even for today's times since its theme told of women's lib. While the plot line was closely followed, none of the dialogue of Tennyson's earlier work appears in the opera. Sir Joseph Barnby added music to some of Tennyson's memorable lines in 1863. This successful marriage of words and music was immensely popular well into the twentieth century. It is not unlikely that the young ladies of Lizzie's time went about their daily tasks, humming this popular ditty:

Sweet and low, sweet and low,
Wind of the western sea,
Low, low, breathe and blow,
Wind of the western sea!
Over the rolling waters go,
Come from the dying moon and blow.
Blow him again to me,
While my little one, while my pretty one sleeps.

Tennyson wrote *Crossing the Bar* in 1889 when he was eighty years old. He thought so highly of this work that he requested it be placed at the end of all of his collections. If Lizzie was familiar with it, she must have placed it among her favorites as so many have done since its inception. The opening stanza of this work is known world-wide:

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

In later life Tennyson attained a world-wide reputation and was persuaded to accept a peerage. Even as an old man he was a striking figure - "a great black, shaggy man, who looked like the poet he was," a friend once remarked. There is something in Tennyson's poetry for everyone. His work has withstood the passage of time and the most aggressive criticism. He was of the chivalrous Victorian Age and it is sad to realize that he is so much ignored today. Tears must be shed for the good things that have receded into the past.

And the faces that one meets,
Hearts with no love for me;
Always I long to creep
Into some still cavern days,
There to weep, and weep, and weep
My whole soul out to thee.

- Passage from *Maud* -

"Into each life some rain must fall,
some days must be dark and dreary."

- *The Rainy Day* by H. W. Longfellow -

Whenever there is a discussion about the giants of Victorian Parlor Poetry, a special niche must be reserved for Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow possessed a religious nature and he graciously submitted his art to what he perceived to be the duty of poets; to deliver lessons of morality. Always the romantic, his rhymes contained all the poetical attributes of beauty and strength. A poet of high regard, his imagination was vivid. Who among us does not recall these few lines from his well-known poem, *When Day is Done*?

And the night shall be filled with music
And the cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs
And as silently steal away.

After teaching at Bowdin he obtained a professorship at Harvard and published his first volume of verse, *Voices of the Night*. With the appearance of *Ballads and Other Poems*, his

reputation as a first-rate poet was established. The volume contained, among others, *The Wreck of the Hesperus*, *The Village Blacksmith* and *Excelsior*.

Longfellow's longer works were instantly successful. *Hiawatha* was an Indian epic. Even now, more than a century after his death, much of what many Americans think they know about certain episodes of their country's history comes from some of Longfellow's poems.

In *Evangeline* there is a narrative romance about Nova Scotia farmers deported from Acadia during the French and Indian wars. *Evangeline Bellefontaine* wanders through Louisiana and Michigan, searching for her fiance Gabriel. The lovers almost meet on several occasions, but not until *Evangeline* has become a nun in Philadelphia do they finally discover each other. Gabriel has become an epidemic victim. The star-crossed pair die in each others arms and are buried together.

The *Courtship of Miles Standish* narrates the apocryphal wooing of Priscilla by the Plymouth Colony captain through his emissary, John Alden. Priscilla prefers John, and when Standish is reported killed in war the lovers prepare to marry. On the evening of the ceremony Standish returns, there is a reconciliation with the couple and Priscilla and John are wed.

In *The Wreck of the Hesperus* the skipper lashes his daughter to the mast when his ship goes down. In this poem we have the beauty of child-like confidence coupled with that of a father's stern courage and affection. Upon the whole there are few truer poems than this, as these few lines attest:

"Oh father! I see a gleaming light,
Oh say, what may it be?"
But the father answered never a word,
A frozen corpse was he.

Lashed to the helm, all stiff and stark,
With his face turned to the skies,
The lantern gleamed through the gleaming snow
On his fixed and glassy eyes.

No doubt, Lizzie was acquainted with the work of this great New England poet. In Victorian times anyone who read prose and poetry read Longfellow. If I were called upon to guess some of her sentimental favorites the list would include *Evangeline*, *The Song of Hiawatha*, *Miles Standish*, and my personal favorite, *The Village Blacksmith*.

Henry's brother, Samuel Longfellow, came to Fall River in the mid-1800s as the pastor of the Unitarian Church.

Longfellow died in 1882. A bust of the poet was placed in Westminster Abbey - the only American to be so honored.

How red my setting sun appears
How lurid looks this soul of mine!

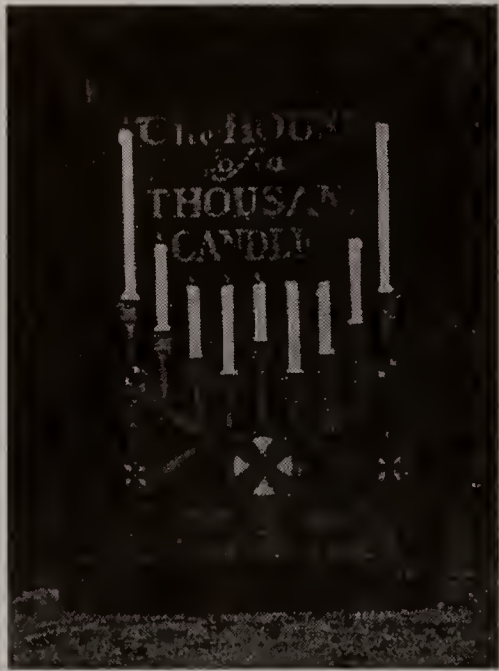
"Charles Dickens is far more pungent, more witty,
and a better disciplined writer of sly articles,
than nine-tenths of the magazine writers of Great Britain."

- Edgar Allen Poe -

In the early years of the nineteenth century the great majority of public institutions in England were in a deplorable condition. It was a time of radical British expansion and grim domestic misery. The spirit of reform aroused by these abuses found its

most ardent and effective champion in Charles Dickens, the son of a bankrupt clerk. Dickens received little education and was forced to work in a factory at an early age. Many of his unhappy childhood experiences are related in his semi-autobiographical *David Copperfield*.

While working as a newspaper reporter Dickens began his *Sketches by Boz*. Soon afterwards he achieved fame through the publication of *Pickwick Papers*, a series of adventures which appeared in a monthly magazine. Dickens was the popular fiction writer of the day, succeeding Sir Walter Scott in the affection of the reading public of Great Britain and the United States. Along with the two works listed above, a further contribution was his classic and probably best known work, *A Christmas Carol*.



Ex Libris Lizzie Borden

This book was actually owned by Miss Lizbeth Borden at Maplecroft
Photograph courtesy of the *Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast/Museum*, Fall River, Massachusetts

Among his numerous successes, in addition to the works already mentioned, was *Oliver Twist*. It ranks as one of English literature's most compelling novels with a social conscience. A story of London life in the early part of the 19th century, it is made up of equal parts of poverty, crime and the horrors of the workhouse.

The story tells of an orphan boy, born in a workhouse and apprenticed to Mr. Sowerberry, an undertaker. Oliver escapes his cruel master and journeys to London. Here he meets up with the Artful Dodger, a young pickpocket employed by Fagin, leader of a den of thieves. Fagin, with the aid of his fellow criminals Nancy and Bill Sikes, tries to force Oliver into a life of crime. Unsuccessful in their attempts, they are eventually brought to justice. Mr. Brownlee, Oliver's rich benefactor, adopts and educates him. This is one of Dicken's most beloved stories.

The *Tale of Two Cities* takes place during the French Revolution. Dr. Manette, condemned to the Bastille by the Marquis de St. Evremonde, is released after eighteen years of imprisonment. Sidney Carton, a dissolute barrister, is in love with Dr. Manette's daughter, Lucie. She does not reciprocate his feelings and weds Charles Darnay, the nephew of the Marquis.

On his journey to Paris, Darnay is captured by revolutionaries and jailed in the Bastille. Manette attempts to rescue him, but in the process is seized and jailed by an irate mob, led by the

notorious Madame Defarge. Darnay is sentenced to death on the guillotine but Sidney Carton manages to spirit him out of the Bastille, sacrificing his own life for his love of Lucie. The tale ends with Sidney Carton's famous unspoken prophecy:

" . . . and I hear him tell the child my story,
with a tender and faltering voice.
'It is a far, far better thing that I do,
than I have ever done;
it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever
known.'"

In *Great Expectations* the story's hero, Pip, through a series of fateful circumstances changes from an orphan boy to a young gentleman of character and substance. He is greatly influenced by the eccentric Miss Havisham, a bitter woman who was jilted by her lover many years before on their wedding day. As a result of this life experience she has brought up her adopted niece, Estella, to hate and torture men in general, and Pip in particular.

Pip's great expectations are realized when he receives a fortune from an unknown benefactor whom he believes to be Miss Havisham. Later he discovers that Magwitch, the convict he once befriended, is his true patron and also the father of Estella. After a series of setbacks, Pip returns home and is reunited with Estella whose husband has died. According to Dicken's biographer, John Forster, this happy ending was contrived on the advice of Bulwer-Lytton, an author of some repute in his own right who wrote *The Last Days of Pompeii*.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is Dickens' last, unfinished, novel. In this story a marriage has been arranged by the late fathers of the two orphans, Edwin Drood and Rosa Bud. Thus the story begins, a gnarled drama of violence and virtue. In the opening scene Drood's Uncle Jasper is seen in an opium den. He persecutes Edwin's betrothed with an evil passion. Edwin is not in love with Rosa; it is Neville Landless who is enamored of her.

The sinister Uncle Jasper foments a quarrel between Edwin and Neville, unaware that Edwin had broken off the engagement. The same night Edwin disappears and the circumstantial evidence points to Neville, who is arrested. Edwin's body cannot be found and Neville is released by the police - here the story breaks off with no indication as to how it would have ended. Many solutions have been put forth and several "completions" of the story have been attempted by various authors.

Did Lizzie read and enjoy Dickens? Of course she did. He was immensely popular at the time with both sexes and all age groups. Drama, mystery, pathos, humor, it was all there for the taking.

"Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself has said,
'This is my own, my native land!'"

The Lay of the Last Minstrel by Sir Walter Scott

Sir Walter Scott, novelist and poet, is considered the father of the regional and historical novel. His character is faithfully reflected in his writing. Although gifted with a vivid imagination, he also possessed common sense and a solid appreciation for the good things in life.

His power of loving and being loved extended to the lower animals. Dogs, no mean judge of character, were devoted to

Scott. It is said even a pig once formed a sentimental attachment to him. In the light of Lizzie's great affection for animals, Scott's sensitivity in this area may have influenced her approval of his work.

Scott's novels ranged from morality to immorality. No doubt the chivalrous undertakings of the heroes in his stories had a telling effect on the young ladies who read his books, Lizzie among them. Scott's narrative poems displayed an indifference to moral issues. His curious preoccupation with violence is seen in many of his tales, which delight in relating episodes of rapine and murder. The reader is provided with enough gore to satisfy even the most bloodthirsty.

Ivanhoe was Scott's first medieval work, and a paragon among knightly romances. Between this story and *Quentin Durward*, you have a full selection in your choice of savagery. There is blood on nearly every page, hangings on trees and a host of other alternative atrocities.

The Talisman continues on in the same vein, a woolly, wild-west story if ever there was one, with gangsters and toughs masquerading as lords. This story takes place during the Crusades, a time in history when the various factions in the Holy Land were divided by the petty jealousies existing among their leaders.

In this story Saladin, the Sultan of Egypt, comes to the Christian camp disguised as a physician. He cures the sickness of Richard the Lion-Hearted by means of an amulet. During a series of events, a dog belonging to Sir Kenneth is deliberately injured by the Marquis of Montferrat. A combat takes place between the aggrieved parties and Montferrat is defeated. Sir Kenneth is discovered to be Prince David of Scotland and the tale fades out on this happy note.

There is little doubt Lizzie was rooting for Sir Kenneth to win his match with the villainous Montferrat. After all he did have two of the qualities Lizzie admired most: social position and a sincere affection for his dog. I can visualize the smile that creased her lips when she read Scott's lines telling of Montferrat's downfall.

The *Bride of Lammermoor*, Scott's gloomy, but popular novel was transformed into an opera by Donizetti (*Lucia Di Lammermoor*). In this story we have our heroine, sweet Lucy, the loyal daughter with no will of her own. Her father, the unscrupulous Sir William Ashton and her haughty mother Lady Ashton, dominate her completely. In the final chapter Lucy's passive quietism segued into insanity and eventually death.

Did Lizzie project herself into the role of Lucy, the tragic, downtrodden heroine? Did she draw a comparison between her father and stepmother and Scott's tyrannical characters, Sir William and His Lady?

"There is no road to wealth so easy and respectable as that of matrimony."

- A. Trollope -

Anthony Trollope (1815-82), was one of six children and was destined to become one of England's greatest novelists. He was a hearty man with an enthusiastic manner and a loud booming voice.

Trollope depicted the clerical society and the political life of Victorian times with both humor and pathos. He spent seven

unhappy years in London as a postal clerk, publishing several unsuccessful novels before achieving fame with *The Warden*, his fourth book and the first of the Barchester novels. His tales of the imaginary cathedral town of Barchester are peopled with unforgettable human beings. The reader follows the progression of the lives of various characters from one book to another, watching their characters age and sharing the author's quiet amusement at their shortcomings.

The series as a whole presents a brilliant and fascinating microcosm of the period. Trollope skillfully sketched the clerical society and political life of the times. *The Warden* was followed by *Barchester Towers*, *Dr. Thorne*, and the final book of the series, *The Last Chronicle of Barset*.

Trollope was appointed Post Office Inspector of Ireland. He wrote several travel books, including an account of his visit to Washington, D. C. in 1868. While there he attended a conference to negotiate an international postal and copyright treaty.

Trollope's autobiography was greatly praised by the well-known writer Henry James, who stated, "His greatness lies in his complete appreciation of the unusual."

Trollope's books were enormously popular with the women of the Victorian era. No doubt Lizzie was among them. His tales of humor and tragedy lent themselves to group discussion, and were chaste enough to be discussed by proper young ladies within their literary church groups.

"Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest."

- Mark Twain -

Mark Twain first saw the light of day in 1835 in Florida, Missouri. If Lizzie had a funnybone, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was certainly the man capable of tickling it. He was a first-rate humorist, narrator, social observer and commentator-to-be. Mark Twain was apprenticed to a printer in the town of Hannibal shortly after his father's death. He wrote for his brother's newspaper for a period of time, then sailed off to South America to "make his fortune." The venture failed and he returned to the states where he became a Mississippi River pilot.

Twain initially achieved fame with his short story, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. The articles he wrote on his excursion to Europe and the Holy Land aboard the steamship "Quaker City," were published under the title of *The Innocents Abroad*. The story was a burlesque of European culture - a travel book that was a parody of all other travel books.

The book was greeted with an enthusiasm that made Twain an overnight celebrity. Bret Harte, a writer and commentator of the day, wrote, "Mark Twain's novel is 650 pages long; about the size of *The Family Physician* manual, for which it doubtless will be often mistaken - with great advantage to the patient."

Twain's *Roughing It* provided his readers with anecdotes of his less genteel past on the Western Frontier. Many present-day critics believe modern American literature stems from two of his classics: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Both books were evocations of Mark Twain's early boyhood in Hannibal, Missouri.

The Prince and the Pauper, although written especially for children, found great favor with the Victorian adult. Of all Mark Twain's tales, I believe this would have been among Lizzie's

favorites. The story blends the simplicity of a fairy tale with realistic social commentary, qualities that could have appealed to her aesthetic as well as her practical nature.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court "presented satirical overtones reflecting a profound seriousness." At least that's what the book reviewers said when it was published. Twain's outline of the story written in his private journal prior to it being published, displays his innate humor:

Dream of being a knight errant in armor in the middle ages -

No pockets in the armor -

No way to manage certain requirements of nature -

Can't scratch -

Cold in the head -

Can't blow -

Can't get a handkerchief, can't use iron sleeve -

Leaks in the rain and freezes solid in winter -

Makes disagreeable clatter when I enter church -

Can't dress or undress myself -

Always getting struck by lightning -

Fall down, can't get up

Did Lizzie have a sense of humor? Did she find Twain's tales amusing? I am reminded of a fateful August morning when she giggled at the top of the stairway, watching Bridget struggle to unlock the front door for Andrew Borden. Considering the circumstances, Lizzie's behavior might be more indicative of a warped sense of humor; Abby lay dead just a few feet away. All of this, of course, is based on the assumption that Lizzie did the dastardly deed.

"Be good sweet maid, and let who will be clever."

A Farewell by Charles Kingsley

Kingsley frequently employed historical settings in his novels to communicate his ideas. His views of Christian Socialism were embodied in his first two novels, *Alton Locke* and *Yeast*. *Hypatia* provides us with an account of the conflict between Greek philosophy and Christianity in the old city of Alexandria in the fifth century. The decadent city is in the last throes of its brilliant civilization. To Alexandria comes a Christian monk, Philammon, who hopes to save mankind from destruction for its sins. He is turned from his faith by the pagan Greek philosopher Hypatia, a beautiful and noble woman.

Even as he is drawn to her he is sickened by the fanaticism of the Alexandrian monks led by the vicious patriarch, Cyril. The city is kept under inadequate control by the legionnaires of the prefect Orestes who is unable, or unwilling, to curb its turbulent elements. Enraged by her teachings, the Christians attack Hypatia and tear her to pieces.

Philammon returns to the desert having learned the lesson of tolerance. The Hypatia of history was a Neoplatonic philosopher who died in the same manner as the Hypatia of Kingsley's story. Her death was a symbol of the final decay of a once-great city. It is my belief this tale would be too heady for our Lizzie, and for that reason alone she would have shied away from it.

Westward Ho! was considered by many critics to be his finest work. Kingsley excelled in his word paintings of South American scenery. In this book he recreates the glorious days of Queen Elizabeth, a time when her subjects sailed the seas of the

New World, searching for gold and adventure on the Spanish Main.

Encounters with Indians and the beautiful white forest girl, Ayacano, make for an exciting story. The final climax, as if one was needed, deals with the dramatic historical defeat of the Spanish Armada.

The Water Babies is a children's story about a grubby little chimney sweep named Tom, who runs away from his harsh master, falls into a stream and is turned into a water baby by the fairies. Tom's adventures under the water on his long journey to the sea, his life among the other water babies, and his long trip to the Shiny Wall is told with a charm and imagination guaranteed to appeal to the young.



Maplecroft

Where Lizabeth Borden lived and read her books
Photograph courtesy of Bertolet Archives

Would such a sentimental tale appeal to Lizzie? She has indicated on many occasions she liked children, but several writers have questioned her sensitivity. Victoria Lincoln, in her book *A Private Disgrace*, wrote: "I doubt that Lizzie was capable of any kind of love affair. I see the Nance business only as another instance of the same nature that led Lizzie to bury her pets in the local pet cemetery around a central monument that bore the tender inscription, 'Sleeping Awhile' - in other words the sort of sentimentality to which my mother used to refer to as 'sort of sickening.'"

Sherlock Holmes was reputed to have once said,
unjustly perhaps,

"Who knows of Thackery beyond *Vanity Fair*?"

On a shelf in my library there is a slim volume authored by Laurence Brander. It was published several years ago in Great Britain, with an asking price of two shillings and sixpence. Such a small sum wouldn't buy very much reading material in today's market, a newspaper perhaps or some other trifle, certainly nothing of any great value - and yet the 48 pages of this small book contain an overview of the life and works of one of the greatest writers of the 19th century: William Makepeace Thackery.

He was born in Calcutta in 1811. While still a small boy he was sent to London. He left Cambridge in 1830 without a degree and entered the Middle Temple to study law. In 1833 he became

the editor of a periodical, *The National Standard*. The following year he settled in Paris to study art, where he met and married Isabella. They returned to England in 1837. Thackery supported his family by literary hack work and illustration.

Three years later his wife became ill, then hopelessly insane. She was cared for by a family in Essex, eventually surviving her husband by thirty years. He sent his two daughters to live with his parents in Paris, all the while working assiduously throughout this decade to support them. His novels now began appearing serially in selected magazines. Thackery contributed to the magazine *Punch*, where he delighted in parodizing the serious fiction of the day.

In 1839 his novella *Catherine*, appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*. It was the type of crime story popular at the time and was based on a particularly atrocious murder, which Thackery supplied with a gruesome finale. His book followed closely the career of a real criminal named Catherine Hayes, and was intended to counteract the then-growing practice of making ruffians and harlots prominent characters in fiction.

In 1850, another Catherine Hayes, an Irish singer and famous prima donna, was much before the public. Thackery, thinking of the former Catherine and oblivious to the present day Catherine Hayes, precipitated a great scandal in the Irish press by associating her name with that of the notorious murderer. This brought about a great hue and cry, and so much pressure was placed upon him that he was forced to recant. There was speculation at the time that he had staged the whole affair to attract attention to himself, for the sole purpose of furthering his career.

Thackery was a historical novelist, a maker of characters and a brilliant satirist who loved writing and was always so engaged. After enjoying a considerable, if not outstanding reputation, he suddenly found himself well-known.

He ascended into major prominence with the publication of his magnum opus, *Vanity Fair*, published in 1847. It was a satirical panorama of London life in the Georgian Age. The novel presented a lively tale of Mayfair society; a social satire of the haut monde grown fat and corrupt, and it is rendered with Thackery's inimitable wit and fullness. The novel introduced many characters, among them Becky Sharp who, while clever and unscrupulous, was still very appealing to the reader.

At this time *Dombey and Son* and *Vanity Fair* were on sale together in the same bookstalls of London for a shilling apiece. Thackery's novels provided his readers with a picture of the upper middle-class, while Dickens related tales of the poverty and squalor endured by the lower classes. As noted earlier, Lizzie possessed a complete set of Thackery's works. She may have read his novels of the London elite somewhat wistfully as she longed for her rightful place in Fall River society, and a prestigious home on 'the hill.'

Thackery usually wrote well-paced narratives. His stories became enhanced when read aloud, and reading aloud was a favorite Victorian pastime. His life was spent in the society of the times, and he recognized no peer in describing it.

Pendennis, which was partly auto-biographical, was published in 1848. This was followed by *Henry Esmond*, a novel of 18th-century life. *The Newcomes* was published in 1855 in which some of the characters of *Pendennis* reappeared.

The Virginians was a major effort. It told of the breaking away of a young nation of "undisciplined provincials," from its

English parent; Thackery's sympathies were entirely with the young Americans who are generously depicted as brave and manly, while the English are portrayed as being foolish and weak and incapable of conducting their affairs of state.

I have attempted to limit my response concerning Lizzie's reaction to her favorite stories, secure in the knowledge that most readers will prefer to provide their own interpretation. And then, of course, there is always the possibility that Lizzie's only reason for reading these tales was simply because they were, in the language of the times, "a corking good read."

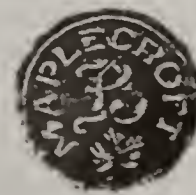
Shortly after the completion of this article, I received a communication from Mr. Robert A. Flynn, well-known Borden scholar and author. Mr. Flynn had recently been called upon to authenticate a selection of books that once belonged to Lizzie Borden. The seven books were donated to the *Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast/Museum* by Leslye Featherline. Mrs. Featherline's great-aunt was the second wife of Ernest Terry, chauffeur to Miss Lizzie Borden. Mr. Flynn's description of the volumes follows:



Ex Libris Lizzie Borden

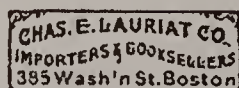
The seven books donated by Mrs. Featherline and authenticated by Mr. Flynn
Photograph courtesy of the *Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast/Museum*, Fall River, Massachusetts

1. *The House of a Thousand Candles* by Meredith Nicholson
Illustrated by Howard Chandler Christy. Published November 1905, Bobbs-Merrill, Indiana. Has small, round embossed green and gold seal, 20mm in diameter, on flyleaf. Seal has small maple leaf, and the lettering "Maplecroft B." There is a small label on the bottom of the page: "Chas. E. Lauriat Co. etc."



2. *Through the Postern Gate* by Florence L. Barclay
Illustrated by F.H. Townsend. Published 1912 by G. P. Putnam. The initials "L.A.B." are on the front flyleaf.
3. *Lawns and How to Grow Them* by Leonard Barron
Published 1910 by Doubleday Page. There is a small label on the bottom of the front flyleaf, "W. B. Clarke, Boston, Bookseller."
4. *With Edged Tools* by Henry Seton Merriman*
Published 1894 by Harper and Brothers. There is a small label "Chas. E. Lauriat Co." on the bottom of the flyleaf page.

5. *The Sowers* by Henry Seton Merriman*
Published 1905 by Harper & Bros. With a "Chas. E. Lauriat" label on the flyleaf.



6. *Told in the Hills* by Marah Ellis Ryan.
Published 1891 by Rand McNally. There is an "Old Corner Book Store Boston" label on the flyleaf page.
7. *The Rosary* by Florence Barclay
Published 1910 by G. P. Putnam. It has the initials "L.A.B." on the front flyleaf, and a "Chas. E. Lauriat" label on the bottom.

L.A.B.

Except for *Lawns and How to Grow Them*, Mr. Flynn further states that the books are all romantic novels pertaining to upper-class families. *With Edged Tools* did not have any mention of an axe or other device. *"Told in the Hills"* has a western United States background.

* Pseudonym for Hugh Stowell Scott (1862-1903)

THE ONLINE LIZZIE BORDEN

(Continued from Page 11)

THE CASE OF LIZZIE BORDEN

The *University of South Florida* offers a special program for freshmen that uses historical events, including the Borden case, as starting points for the discussion of the social issues of that time. Developed by Susan Fernandez and Drew Smith, it includes a MOO where students can discuss features of the murders online.

<http://nosferatu.cas.usf.edu/lc/borden/>

Also emanating from USF: A few months ago I began to get e-mail from students at the University of Singapore. That was odd enough, but what was even odder was that they all asked precisely the same question: Who was the foreman at Lizzie Borden's trial? I was mystified at the sudden interest in such an obscure question originating half a planet away. It was one of the USF web sites that provided the solution.

Ilene Frank teaches students how to use the Internet as an information source. At the course's end, she sends them on a hunt: a list of questions to which they must find the answers solely by use of their computers. (I'll let you guess what the last question is). The University of Singapore assigned Ilene's questions to their own students and thus a new group was introduced to the Borden case. See if you can track down a set of obscure facts at:

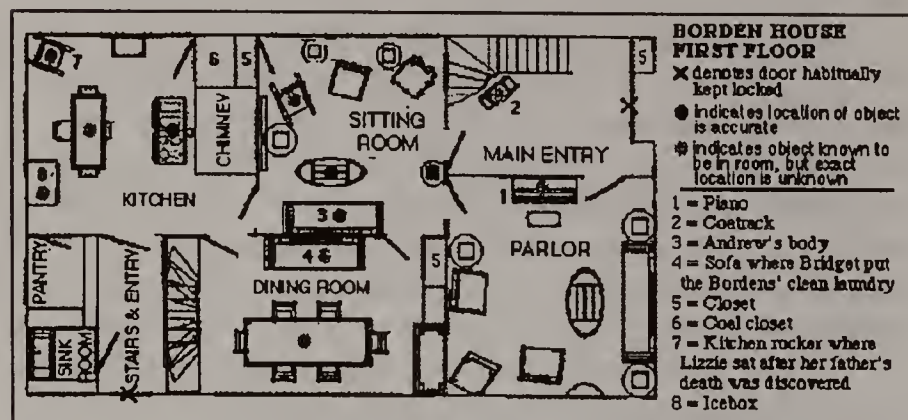
<http://www.cas.usf.edu/lis/lis5937/huntc97.html>

THE VIRTUAL REALITY BORDEN HOUSE

My site that was described in the April, 1998 *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*. If you have any information from a good source (and I'd like to emphasize good) concerning errors or omissions in the

model of Emma's bedroom, please let me know.

<http://www.halfmoon.org/borden/>



One of many creative windows on Ms. McNelly's Website

© 1996-1997 N.A.F. MCNELLY

ONLINE BOOKSTORES

Both Amazon and Barnes and Noble claim to be the largest online bookstore in the world. Both deal primarily with books currently in print, but Amazon will try to find copies of out-of-date books for you, and I have found that they often succeed.

(Editor's note: Another remarkable web location for locating new and out-of-print books with comparative pricing is "MX Insider" at <http://www.mxbf.com/>. Here you can electronically browse through the databases of several different booksellers, including "Amazon.")

But for those truly hard-to-find publications, there is no better used bookstore in the US than Powell's of Portland, Oregon (and that's very high praise coming from a Cantabrigian, a resident of a city where our bookstores are our pride). If they don't have a copy of the obscure book you're looking for right away, check back regularly and chances are it will turn up eventually.

<http://www.amazon.com>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

<http://www.powells.com>

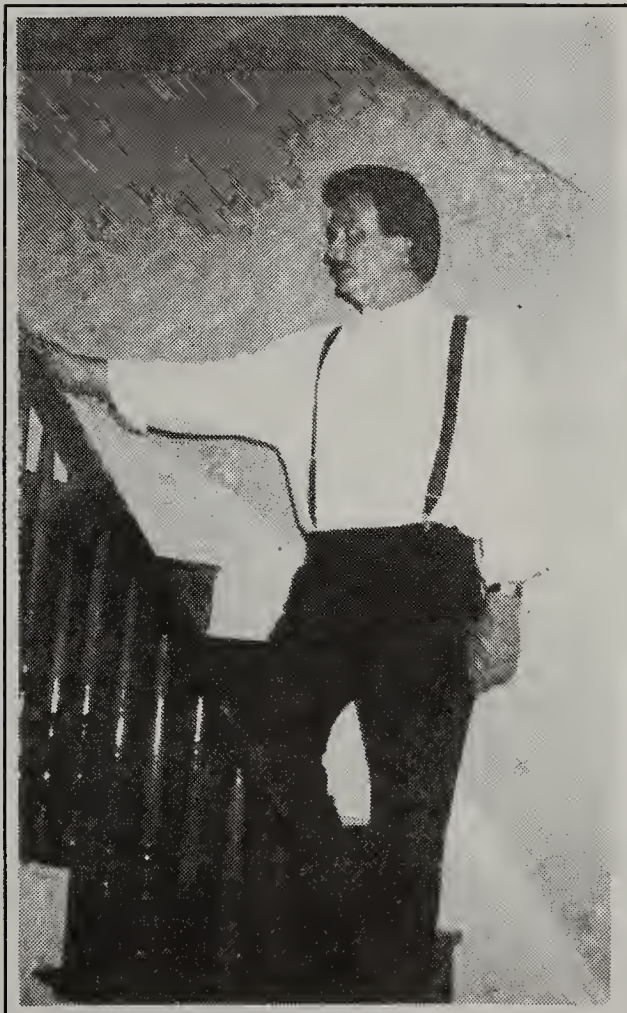
NEWSGROUPS

There are four newsgroups available for the discussion of true crime cases: alt.crime, alt.sci.criminology, alt.true.crime, and alt.true-crime. The first two are virtually moribund and the third is the result of a malconfigured creation message. The newsgroup, alt.true-crime, is an active group, averaging about 300 posts a day.

This newsgroup is largely devoted to current events. The lion's share of the discussion has been devoted to the Ramsey case for the past year and shows no sign of abating. The Bordens have appeared in the past, but usually only briefly.

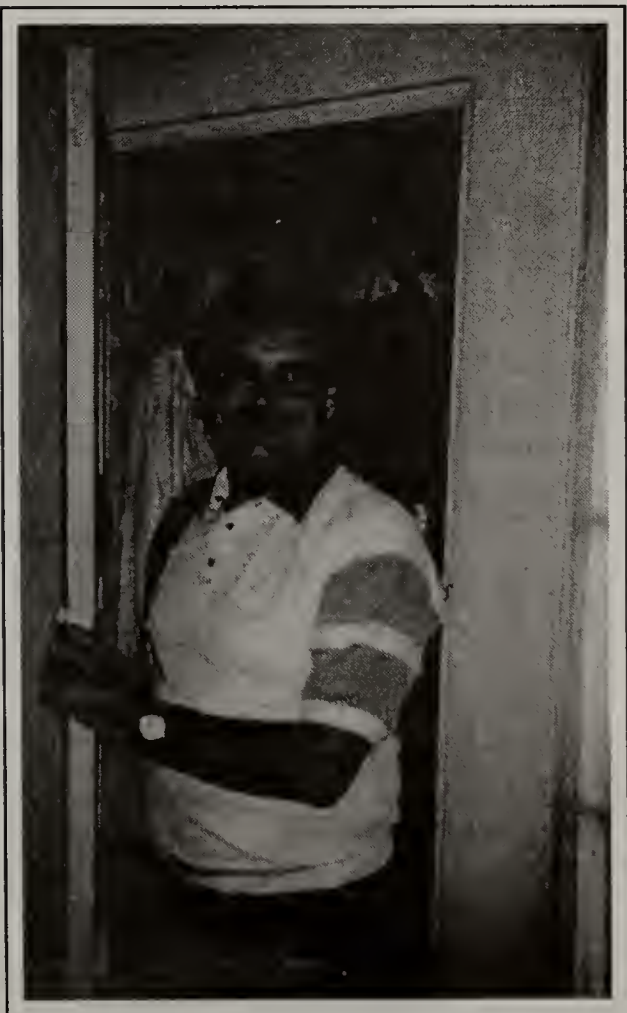
Unfortunately, like far too many newsgroups these days, alt.true-crime also contains flamewars, factions, and disagreements that have more to do with personalities than the topic at hand. At times the noise level rises to the point of making the group almost unusable. The old Usenet rule of reading a group for two weeks before posting to it is truly good advice here.

The Broken Branch



Ron walking down the Borden stairway

Photograph courtesy of Jeannine Bertolet



Ron peering out from the foyer closet

Photograph courtesy of Jeannine Bertolet

Remembering Ronald E. Evans

Sunrise April 19, 1949 - Sunset May 15, 1998

It is with deep regret we announce the passing from life to life of Mr. Ronald E. Evans. Ah yes, we remember him well

For those who have been fortunate enough to visit and tour the old Borden house on Second Street, it was through the vision and work of Mr. Evans that this became possible.

As a young man in his early teens, while still a student at BMC Durfee High School in Fall River, Ron went to work part time for Mr. John R. McGinn at the *Leary Press*, immediately adjacent to the house owned by Mr. Andrew J. Borden in 1892. Mr. McGinn and his wife Josephine made their residence in the old Borden house.

Ron was a quiet and hard-working young man, graduating in the class of 1967, after which he began working full time. He was drafted into the Army March 4, 1969, and served as a machine-gunner in Vietnam, attaining the rank of E-5. Upon his return January 12, 1971 he went back to work at *Leary Press* and was also given the responsibility of taking care of Mr. McGinn's properties, including the Second Street house. When Mr. McGinn's son, John R., Jr., passed away in 1977, Ron was once again drafted, albeit in another way. With Mr. McGinn, Sr. retired, he was suddenly given the responsibility of running the businesses. He did so with enthusiasm and imagination, which turned out to be a big asset. Later on, Ron and the McGinn's granddaughter, Martha, became partners in the businesses. Following the passing of Mr. John R. McGinn, Sr. in 1987 and Mrs. Josephine McGinn in 1994, they began the arduous task of refurbishing, restoring and opening the Second Street home to the public as a Bed and Breakfast/Museum.

The *Leary Press* has been printing the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* since November, 1995. They are noted for paying attention to detail and quality workmanship, also qualities of the late Mr. Evans.

Mr. Evans is survived by his wife Simone. He was a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. But perhaps more important than formal associations, Ron was well-known throughout the Second Street neighborhood by many young children. They recognized in him a caring, kindred spirit. At least once a week several children would present themselves to Ron, who would give them tours through the Borden house, answer their questions, take an interest in their lives, and cap it off with refreshments on the house. Perhaps this legacy will remain the most far-reaching.

The entire staff of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* remembers Ron with great favor, and extends their sincere condolences to family, co-workers and friends



Ho, Hum... SAME OLD STORY.

**Rich, abusive father. Uncaring stepmother.
And a daughter WIELDING AN AX.
...or did she???**

A century ago, on August 4 of 1892, in an unassuming house at 92 Second Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, 32 year old Lizzie Borden was accused of the brutal murders of her father and stepmother. But did she? Does the evidence really point straight at Miss Lizzie, or was the real perpetrator overlooked in the aftermath of confusion and emotions? Come decide for yourself in the house where the unimaginable happened. Relax in the beautifully restored Victorian setting - open a book in the sitting room and gaze about at the actual scene of which you are reading; go into the front parlor and watch the documentaries and movies made of the crime; then tour the home from basement to attic, hear the myths and learn the facts. Relax in your chosen bedroom... will the truth be whispered to you in your dreams?

Are you tired of the same old summer vacation? Come spend the night in Victorian luxury at an inn right out of the pages of history. If it is your desire for an all new getaway experience, we promise you won't be disappointed. Our professional staff will make your stay one to always remember.

Special discount rates August 5 - 9 during Fall River Celebrates America week!

**For information/reservations call 508-675-7333 & Visit us on the Internet @www.lizzie-borden.com
The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast & Museum & 92 Second Street & Fall River, MA 02721**

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

**Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391**

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fall River, MA
Permit No. 140**

Make check or money order payable to the

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

For new subscribers either remove the label and write your name and address or just write to us with the same information. Please include your check or money order.

Mail to:

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

**Mr. Jules Ryckebusch - Publisher
Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River MA 02720-7391**

If your label says - Remaining Issues: 0 - Renew your subscription now!

Cut-out or duplicate coupon and mail today! Your Choice!

U.S.A. → 1 Year \$14.00 2 Years \$ 24.00

Non U.S.A. → 1 Year \$20.00 2 Years \$ 32.00

Affix mailing label here.

JAN 25 1999

University of Massachusetts
Depository

THE

LIZZIE BORDEN
QUARTERLY

UMASS/AMHERST



312066016272052

Volume V, Number 4

\$4.00

October, 1998

LIZBITS

By Neilson Caplain

(Editor's note: This issue represents a "first." We move the beginning of Mr. Caplain's popular column from page five to the headline page.

Beginning in the last issue, Neilson gave us his first installment of Fall River's Second Street in 1892 that has hithertofore been lacking in any book. We see the shape of the culture, community and even, it seems, the sights and sounds of Mr. Borden as he walked to his fate.

So, let's go back to those days of yesterday, from out of the past comes

THE WEST SIDE OF SECOND STREET IN 1892

Let us pretend, as we did in the last issue of the Quarterly, that Andrew Jackson Borden concluded his downtown business after talking to Mr. A.G. Hart at the *Union Savings Bank*. Mr. Borden was President of that institution and Chairman of its Investment Committee.

He bid Mr. Hart good day, took the few steps on Main Street to Bedford and walked one block up that street to the corner of Second Street. Turning to his right, he decided to walk on the West side of Second Street so to enjoy the warmth of the rising sun. Across the way, on the East side, he could see the *Post Office & Custom House*, the *Fire Department* headquarters and the *Commercial House Hotel*.

Proceeding along Second Street, he first encountered Market Square which consisted of two narrow streets on either side of City Hall. City Hall in the old days was called the *Market Building* because produce shops lined up in stalls on the

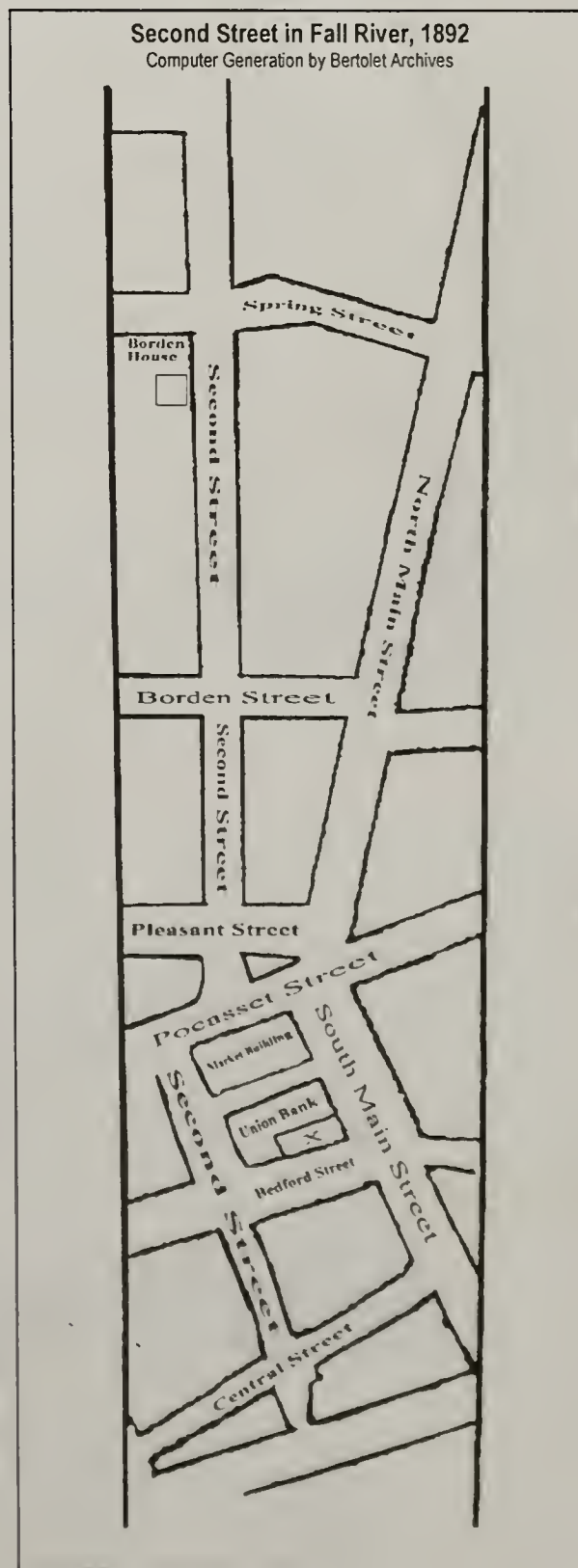
ground floor. City business was conducted on the second floor. The back side of the edifice faced Second Street.

Crossing to Pocasset Street, Andrew walked by the triangular Pocasset Building. At one time this was the preferred location for many prominent lawyers. Joshua Blaisdell, the judge who declared Lizzie probably guilty at the Preliminary Hearing, maintained his practice there before moving to Bedford Street.

At this point our protagonist rested a moment before starting up the slight grade ahead. The old man's mind wandered. He thought about the street on which he had lived for twenty-seven years since moving from his father's house on Ferry Street. His mind's eye envisioned the changes to the street from a country lane, to rutted road, and finally, to a paved (or cobblestone) thoroughfare. He remembered that the street was once graced by stately homes and shaded gardens. Alas, for the changes that took place over the years! Stores, shops and no less than seven stables replaced home and garden near his home.

Oh well, Andrew Borden thought, here I live, and here I'll stay, no matter that Lizzie wants to move up on the Hill. Recovering from his reverie, Andrew met Pleasant Street, the principal east/west highway in town. He gingerly stepped off the curb, careful to avoid the busy trolley cars and horse-drawn wagons. He heard the din of the "low gears," trucking huge bales of cotton from the *Fall River Line* of steamboats to the cotton mills.

(Continued on Page 5)



THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

A Different Menu:

On The Table This Issue:

- The West Side of Second Street in 1892 Page 1.
by Neilson Caplain
- More About Porter's Book Page 3.
Submitted by Jerry Ross
- Borden Family Values Page 6.
by Denise Noe
- The Happening Page 7.
by Jane Rimer
- From the Whitehead Point of View Page 8.
by Thomas C. Leonard
- Students, Statues and Things Page 9.
by Robert A. Flynn
- An Edmund Pearson/Frank Knowlton Prequel Page 10.
by Walter J. Mitchell
- The Edmund Pearson/Frank Knowlton Correspondence Page 11.
Part IV
- Lizzie Borden - A New Musical Page 18.

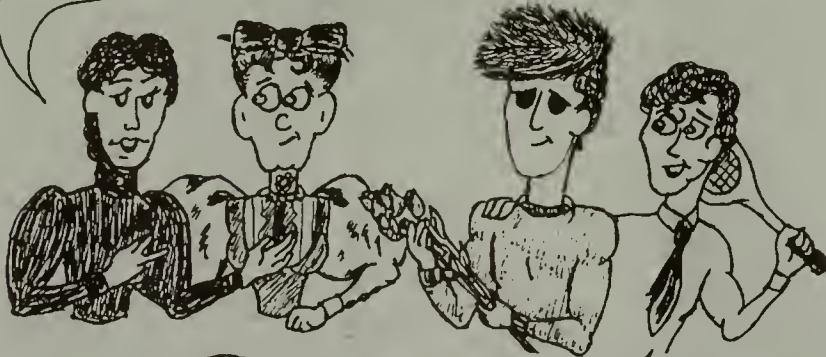
Standard Fare:

- BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN Page 4.
by Lisa Zawadzki
- LIZBITS Page 1.
by Neilson Caplain
- PRINCESS MAPLECROFT Page 2.
by Mary T. Cusack



PRINCESS MAPLECROFT

NOW, HERE ARE TWO FATHER WOULD APPROVE OF! THEY HAVE COME A LONG WAY TO SEE YOU, LIZZIE. THEY ARE HANDSOME, EDUCATED, ATHLETIC AND LOADED!



HELLO MISS BORDEN! I'm ERIK AND THIS PUPPY-DOG EYED HUNK IS MY BROTHER, LYLE. WITH THAT SWING OF YOURS, WE COULD GET A MEAN GAME OF TENNIS GOING.

©1998 Mary T. Cusack

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

Volume V, Number 4, October, 1998

Publisher Jules R. Ryckebusch
Editor Maynard F. Bertolet
Copy Editor Jeannine H. Bertolet
Design and Layout Maynard F. Bertolet
Photographer Jeannine H. Bertolet

Staff Contributors:

Neilson Caplain
Mary T. Cusack
Lisa Zawadzki

Current Issue Contributors:

Robert A. Flynn
Thomas C. Leonard
Walter J. Mitchell
Denise Noe
Jane Rimer
Jerry Ross

Printing and Mailing:

TCI Press
21 Industrial Court
Seekonk, MA 02771-2016

The *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* is published four times a year on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15. Distribution is by U.S. mail. Current one-year USA mail subscriptions cost \$14.00 and \$24.00 for two years. Non-USA subscriptions are \$20.00 for one year and \$32.00 for two years. The Editor reserves the right to edit and/or revise submissions, without changing intent. If possible, please submit articles on floppy disks in the IBM ASCII format. To be considered, submissions must be received 60 days prior to the publication date. In order for letters to the editor to be considered for publication, the author's name, address and telephone number must be included. Advertising rates are \$50.00 for a quarter-page, \$100.00 for a half-page and \$200.00 for a full-page.

Send all subscription payments to:

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Jules R. Ryckebusch - Publisher
Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720-7391

Send all *LBQ* submissions,

letters to the editor and
address changes to:

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
Mr. Maynard F. Bertolet - Editor
2 Blancoyd Road
Merion Station, PA 19066-1802
Telephone and Fax Numbers: (610) 664-2247
E-Mail: Bertolet@msn.com

Lizzie Borden Quarterly
(ISSN 1069-4900)

©1998 Bristol Community College
All rights reserved.

Unauthorized duplication prohibited by law.

An Apology To All

Yes indeed, an apology to all subscribers is necessary. And to our contributors to the last issue, July, 1998, an additional apology is extended. We regret the late mailing of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* to our subscribers.

In our last issue tribute to Mr. Ron Evans, co-owner of the *Leary Press*, we lamented his untimely passing and stated "*The Leary Press has been printing the "Lizzie Borden Quarterly" since November, 1995. They are noted for paying attention to detail and quality workmanship, also qualities of the late Mr. Evans.* How true this was. Mr. Evans ran the shop and was brilliant in his execution.

Also, our hearts and sincere regrets are extended to the *Leary Press* in their time of need. I guess all of hell's demons plagued the press and fought against our last issue being printed. Gremlin after gremlin attacked them. As quickly as ground was gained, another front was threatened. Perhaps there is something about the old house being haunted after all, only in this case, our organ took the brunt of their attack.

This caused a serious delay in releasing the issue. With a commitment to mail all copies by July 1, the problems delayed the issue more than three weeks, until July 24. This caused extremely long delays for people living outside the Fall River area. For example, your Editor's mail copy was not received until August 22. However, these problems are now solved.

Graphic reproduction suffered also. Particular care is taken with graphics. The original photograph or graphic is cropped leaving that portion most pertinent to the subject matter. Blemishes are corrected and the graphic is resized to correctly fit into a precisely defined computer generated frame. This is a lengthy process, but necessary to sustain quality. The graphics in the last issue were darkened during the printing process and we haven't yet discovered the source of this problem.

After joint meetings with the Publisher, Editor and Printer, it was decided to use another Printer for the current issue while investigation continues. We look forward to renewing our relationship in the future ... until then ... let's look at the issue in your hand.

We have culled some outstanding articles this time from the serious to research to cartoons. Neil Caplain surveys Second Street. See a recent price for the Porter book. How about a Lizzie Borden Broadway musical. Jane Rimer returns to The House on Second Street. A document is uncovered at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library and how about some of those Borden family values ... enjoy ...

On another subject, we save money when subscriptions are renewed without waiting for notification. Please don't forget to renew if your mailing label reads: **Remaining Issues: 0.**

Maynard F. Bertolet

More About Porter's Book

In the October, 1997 issue of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, Mr. William Schley-Ulrich wrote an article on page six titled *Porter's "Fall River Tragedy" - How Rare?* Part of that article traced all known copies of the original 1893 edition published by George R.H. Buffinton and printed by the Press of J.D. Munroe in Fall River.

Also in that article various asking and purchased prices were quoted. It had been anticipated to include annual *LBQ* updates listing any additional known copies in existence. Unfortunately, subsequent additions were not received.

Be that as it may, we received a recent memo from Mr. Jerry Ross in Laguna Hills, California. He sent us a page from the *Peter L. Stern and Company Antiquarian Bookseller* rare books catalog, probably issued in 1998. Please note number 250. We welcome this latest input.

Thank you, Mr. Ross, for this item of interest.

Peter L. Stern & Co. - Catalog 29

249. [LITERARY MAGAZINES]. LOWRY, ROBERT (ED.). *The Little Man* Issues 1 & 2. Cincinnati: The Little Man, 1939. The first issue consists of a cardboard box with ten enclosures with contributions by Saroyan, Lowry, Thomas Mann and Jesse Stuart, whose contribution, "Tim", is a separate illustrated booklet. The box is broken but the contents are uniformly fine. The second issue consists of three pamphlets in an envelope. \$175.00

Forty Whacks

250. [LIZZIE BORDEN MURDER CASE]. PORTER, EDWIN H. *The Fall River Tragedy. History of the Borden Murders* Fall River, Massachusetts. Geo. R.R. Buffington, 1893. First Edition. The first book on Lizzie Borden, written by a local reporter who covered the story of the 1892 murders. Borden suppressed the book by buying and destroying nearly the entire edition. Contains many photographs and much information not found elsewhere. Ownership signature. Cloth rubbed and pages tanned as usual, hinges cracked, good to very good. \$1,500.00

Inscribed by London

251. LONDON, JACK. *The God Of His Fathers* New York: McClure Phillips, 1901. First Edition. Inscribed: "Sincerely Yours, Jack London, Oakland Calif., May 27, 1901." The front of the stamped envelope (addressed in London's hand in which the book was sent to its recipient) is tipped in. Hinges mended, else a very good clean copy. \$3,500.00

In Dust Jacket

252. LONDON, JACK. *The Call of the Wild*. New York: Macmillan, 1903. First Edition of Jack London's best-known book. A fine copy in a dust jacket with archival repair to the flap hinges and spine. In a quarter-morocco slipcase. \$7,000.00

253. LONDON, JACK. *Theft: A Play in Four Acts*. New York: Macmillan, 1910. First Edition. Printed in an edition of only 990 copies. Cover lettering flaked, else a near fine copy. \$1,500.00

254. [MACARTHUR, DOUGLAS]. HUNT, FRAZIER. *The Untold Story of Douglas MacArthur*. New York: Devin-Adair, 1954. First Edition. Inscribed by MacArthur. Very good in a torn dust jacket. \$350.00

255. MACDONALD, GEORGE. *Annals Of A Quiet Neighborhood*. London: Hurst and Blackett, 1867. First Edition. Three volumes. Original publisher's cloth. Except for what appears to be some unnecessary touch-up of the extremities by a previous owner, a remarkably fine and fresh set. Neither Sadleir nor Wolff had a first edition in their collections. \$1,650.00

256. MACDONALD, JOHN D. *The Girl In The Plain Brown Wrapper*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1973. First American Hardbound Edition. A fine copy in a dust jacket with a very slightly faded spine. \$250.00

257. MACDONALD, ROSS. *Blue City* by Kenneth Millar. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1947. First Edition. A fine copy in a dust jacket with minor rubbing and a tiny chip at the top of the front panel. \$300.00

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers. I hope everyone has had a pleasant summer, especially the fourth of August. I've found some nice items for everyone to enjoy for the cold months ahead. Like we say at the reference desk, you can never read too many books. So, let's get started.

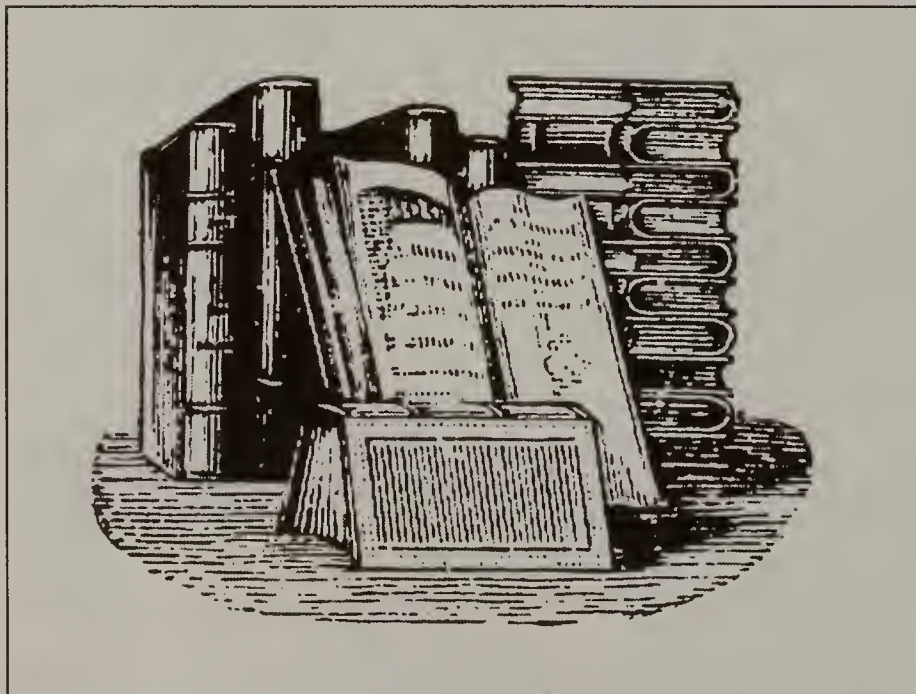
Ronan, Stephen:

Our Lady of Fall River

Ammunition Press

Berkeley, California, 1983.

I have always liked this poem. I'm not sure I understand enough about literature to fully appreciate it as art, but I like it. The narrator followed Miss Lizzie's spirit on a journey around town. Floating about, they visited many Fall River sites and recalled some famous events. There were many details that showed the author was very familiar with the facts of the case. Readers who enjoy horror or supernatural stories will particularly enjoy this work. I found the eerie mood quite convincing. The above plot outline does not do the poem justice, so seek it out and read it for yourself.



I had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Ronan speak at the 1992 conference at Bristol Community College. I had given a presentation about my bibliography the day before. During my talk, I had given a "top ten" list of my favorite works, one from each genre. For poetry, I announced that A.L. Bixby's "To Lizzie" was my choice for best poem.

Later, I asked the very gracious Mr. Ronan to autograph a copy of his work. He must have been in the audience the morning of my talk. I still treasure my copy with the inscription, "For Lisa Zawadzki, your second favorite Borden poet."

Morton, James

Abigail and Andrew Borden

The Who's Who of Unsolved Murders, Pages 39-42

Kyle Cathie Limited, London, 1994

Thank goodness for the British and their never-ending supply of true crime books! The fact that the article was titled after the victims was refreshing in a way. Books of this type usually put Lizzie's name in their titles, thus making her appear guilty by association. Even when the author goes on to declare her unconditionally innocent, having her name grouped with many convicted criminals does her reputation no good at all. Say what you will, the lady was found not guilty.

That said, this is a fair condensation of the main points of the case. The author did not state if he believed Lizzie guilty or innocent. The author also mentioned three major authors (Radin, Pearson and Lincoln) and their differing theories. The short bibliography listed only those three works. As they say in all the book reviews I read at work, this is an optional purchase.

Ghaffari, Michelle

Mystery and Mayhem:

Tales of Lust, Murder, Madness and Disappearance

MetroBooks, Pages 61-62

New York, NY, 1995

This oversized true crime picture book had only the briefest mention of Lizzie. The author simply stated that Miss Borden was an unlikely murderer and that public opinion eventually turned against her. True enough, but what was offered hardly seemed to be a tale of "lust, murder, madness and disappearance." Ghaffari did manage to squeeze in the rumors about Lizzie's kleptomania and the possibility of the murders having been committed in the nude. Not the whole tale by a longshot, but just a few stray bits of gossip. There was a large, if familiar, photograph of Lizzie.

Urbon, Stephen

Many Take a Whack at Naming Tool

New Bedford Standard Times

October 24, 1982, Page 4

While clearing out a warehouse on Third Street "a few years back," movers found a strange tool in an old box of junk. The metal tool, with a wooden handle and a curved four inch blade, could not be identified. The discovery was made only a few hundred feet from the Borden house. The finder had been grinningly telling people that it was the infamous murder weapon.

The mystery "weapon" was given to the police department who were said to be considering "having it eventually tested for blood stains." There was a picture provided of the "whatsis," as the item was being called. I have never heard anything further on this. It was almost certainly a joke. How about it, loyal readers? Have you heard anything? Can you identify the use of "whatsis?"

That's all for now. See you next issue. Keep on reading!

by Neilson Caplain

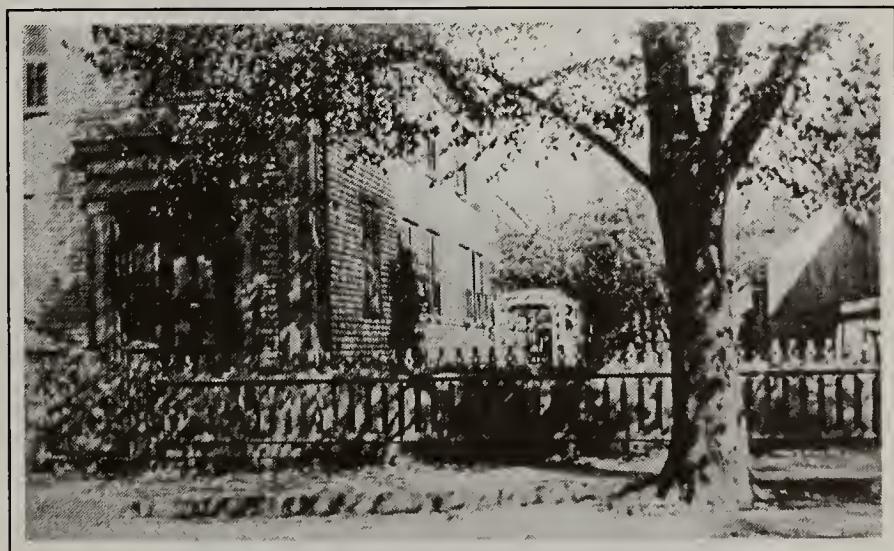
(Editor's note: In this issue, the beginning of Mr. Caplain's column is on the front page.)

THE WEST SIDE OF SECOND STREET IN 1892

(Continued from Page 1)

Once across the street, Mr. Borden saw the *Western Union* telegraph office located at the corner of the Academy Building. This imposing structure was also known as the Borden Block. It rose four stories in height and was built of red brick ornately trimmed with sandstone, in what has been called the high Victorian Gothic style. It was erected in 1870 by the heirs of Nathaniel B. Borden, industrialist and one-time Mayor of Fall River. The front of the building was on Main Street. The rear ran along Second Street. It was the biggest building in town, housing retail stores, offices and the *Academy of Music*.

The latter claimed to be the only theater in town, although there was a *Wonderland Musee* not far away. The *Academy of Music* had a seating capacity of two thousand and advertised "where only first-class attractions play." Indeed, many of the stellar personalities of the day graced its stage. The price for admission in 1892 was 50 cents.



Mr. Borden's Destination

The Borden house as it looked in 1892

This view also shows the partial residence of Dr. Kelly
Note the yard where Bridget washed windows and talked to the Kelly girl

Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society

Proceeding along the Academy Building, Andrew nodded in his usual gruff manner to acknowledge the greeting called out by John M. Deane. This well-known merchant was arranging his wares at the rear entrance to his extensive grocery store at 43-49 Second Street. His emporium also offered for sale drugs and medicine, tobacco and cigars, as well as wholesale and retail groceries.

Mr. Deane suffered the loss of a leg in the Civil War and was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery under fire. Abby Borden frequently patronized his store, as well as the competing *Hudner's Grocery* around the corner. Located further along the Academy Building, at numbers 51 - 53 was *William H. Ashley & Co.* where on rare occasions Andrew purchased his haberdashery needs. The store featured men's, youth's, boy's and children's

clothing "both fine and common", also rubber goods.

A narrow space separated the Academy Building from the three-and-a-half story brick building where W.G. Pearse sold agricultural implements, seeds and fertilizers, harness and horse clothing. His address was 55 to 61 Second Street.

Immediately adjacent, in a two-story wood building at number 63, Thomas Bowden sold provisions and John H. Barber, a letter carrier, lived at number 65. There were also four boarders listed at this address.

The next building, of three-story brick construction, was J.N. Murphy who had a liquor store and Charles T. McCloskey who had a tinware shop, over which Mary Audet hosted a Lodging House. This structure was numbered 67-69.

Abstemious Mr. Borden passed by the liquor store with distaste. He eschewed the use of alcoholic beverages as a needless expense. And he frowned at the thought that there were about 170 such stores within the city boundaries.

The same building housed the headquarters of *Cook & Grew* at number 71. This company was the largest plumbing establishment in the city. It employed at least fourteen craftsmen. The firm also dealt in ranges, furnaces, heating and ventilating, "all work done at short notice and in the best manner at the OLD STAND." It crossed Andrew's mind that his daughter Lizzie would love to have this company install hot water and a lavatory in his house. A needless expenditure, the miser thought.

Borden Street was the next to be crossed. At the far corner numbers 73 and 75 are not listed in the City Directory. However, a later map shows a pool room and billiard parlor in a wood building at that corner.

At number 77 another large wood building seems to have been divided into apartments. The Crowley and the Connelly families lived there, as well as a laborer, a dressmaker, and a baker. Thomas Ready once had a liquor store at number 79. That shop went out of business and was replaced by an indeterminate business during the year of 1892.

Number 81-83 was occupied by three businesses. A. C. & H. Hampton were produce wholesalers, Augustus C. Rich had a machine shop and Levi S. Wood is listed as a Carriage Trimmer. According to testimony given at Lizzie's trial, this edifice also housed the stable of L.L. Hall to which Bridget hurried to report the murders. The building was razed or converted to become *Rich's Theater* a year or two later. That enterprise took up the space from 81 to 87.

There were three small wood buildings at number 85 of unknown occupancy and number 87 was empty space.

Number 89 was the home of Elisha J. Spear, laundry man, and Inez Spear, dressmaker. Their residence was two stories in height and had a surrounding lawn or garden. It probably had a wood-shingled exterior like so many houses in Fall River at that time.

Across from his own house, Andrew passed by the two-story duplex wood mansion serving as the home and office of Dr. Seabury W. Bowen at number 91 and the home of Southard Miller at 93. Pictures show that this edifice abutted the sidewalk with no space at all between the house and the walkway.

(Continued on Page 17)

BORDEN FAMILY VALUES

By Denise Noe

(Editor's note: Frequent author Denise Noe has opened this box all the way and shed light into the dark corners thereof. She gives us a fresh look at facts applied against the axiom of Mr. Borden's parsimonious nature. In addition to the hot weather hypothesis on the day of the murder, the stingy presumption has been accepted as fact and repeated by almost every author.

Miss Noe has used the information available to her and presented a logical set of circumstances to make her case.

I don't believe we have heard the end of this. If any of our readers can either further this thread, or present a logical alternate scenario, let me hear from you.)

In many ways, the family in which America's most famous alleged parricide took place was an exemplar of what our contemporary politics call "family values." Thus, it is fitting, rather than ironic, that the *National Review* celebrated the centennial of the case with a cover story.

The Borden family had one provider, a male who was the unquestioned head of the household. Though far from the norm, it was possible for unmarried women to work in those days, as schoolteachers for example (a job which might have suited Sunday School teacher Lizzie), but the Bordens were content with a single-earner family.

It has been widely believed that the family suffered under Andrew Borden's reign of tyrannical stinginess. Edmund Pearson, Victoria Lincoln, and many other writers on the case have depicted Mr. Borden as a miser. However, a fresh appraisal, together with modern research, gives a lie to the legend of Andrew Borden-the-tightwad.

First, there is the presence of Bridget Sullivan to consider. It is not likely that a stingy man in a medium-size house with a family of three adult women would have hired a full-time, live-in maid to lighten their load!

In addition, it is common knowledge that, only a couple of years before the slayings, Lizzie took a trip to Europe -- financed by her father.

It is still repeated that the Borden's, unlike other families of their income strata, lacked indoor plumbing due to Andrew Borden's hysterical miserliness.

But as was shown in the July 1997 issue of *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, this is simply false and Andrew Borden had plumbing installed "not six months after the convenience was first made available to the residents of Fall River." *(Editor's note: Please see "Research Discovers an Unknown Side of Andrew J. Borden" by Jamelle Tanous with research by Dennis A. Binette.)*

Thus, Andrew Borden must be considered a reasonably indulgent husband and father rather than the monstrous miser of myth.

Emma and Lizzie continued living in the family home after reaching adulthood. While Lizzie, unlike Emma, may have had beaux, both appear to have been models of sexual propriety. Though many have posited a sexual motive for the murders, such

rumors are suspicions only, based on little or no factual evidence - and the most famous one of the time, was demonstrably false.

In the Trickey - McHenry affair, The *Boston Globe* published the story that the Borden parricide was triggered by a Lizzie "in trouble" and about to get kicked out of the house because of her out-of-wedlock pregnancy. However, the same paper was obliged to print a retraction and apology to the "inhuman reflection upon [Miss Lizzie's] honor as a woman" when they discovered that the salacious tale had no truthful basis whatsoever. Many conservatives are indeed nostalgic for a day when a woman's sexual purity was taken so seriously that a false attack on it would occasion the foregoing apology.

(Editor's note: Shades of history repeating itself. Within the past four months, this same "Boston Globe," still in business, fired two of their columnists, Patricia Smith and Mike Barnicle, for writing partially untrue stories.)

Loyalty is a family value which the Bordens exemplified. Lizzie, unlike many suspects claiming to be innocent, never "hedged her bets" by suggesting, even subtly, that her alleged victims deserved their fate. She admitted to disagreements within the family (who could deny that their family has had differences of opinion?) but did not publicly criticize the conduct of her father or step-mother.

Emma loyally testified for her sister at trial, continued living with her sister for years after Lizzie's acquittal and, even after they had parted, maintained her unshaken belief in her sister's innocence. In the only interview she ever gave, Emma stated, "as for [Lizzie] being guilty, I say 'No,' and decidedly 'No.'" Emma elaborated that Lizzie had many times "reiterated her protest of innocence," pointed out that "the authorities never found the axe or whatever implement it was that figured in the killing. Lizzie, if she had done the deed, could never have hidden the instrument of death so that the police could not find it. There was no hiding place in the old house that would serve for effectual concealment. Neither did she have the time." Emma went on to praise Lizzie's love of animals and claim that "any person with a heart like that could never have committed the awful act for which Lizzie was tried and of which she was acquitted."

Finally, the Bordens were strong on family privacy. Prior to the trial, Lizzie gave one interview in which she discussed why she impressed many people as cold. It was the result, she suggested, of a lifetime spent cultivating a public restraint which contrasts so sharply to the let-it-all-hang-out ideology of our era. "They say I don't show my grief," Miss Lizzie said, "Certainly I don't in public. I never did reveal my feelings, and I cannot change my nature now. They say I don't cry. They should see me when I am alone."

After the trial, Emma only gave the one interview quoted from in this article, and that, late in life; Lizbeth, none. As Thomas Sowell noted in *Commentary*, "... families are traditionally not supposed to show their wounds to one and all, but maintain an appropriate reserve," -- and the Bordens never volunteered the smallest piece of dirty laundry for public inspection. This preeminent Borden trait is why *National Review's* Florence King said that, in this age, Miss Lizzie would be "the Phantom of the Oprah."



Mr. Borden

THE HAPPENING

By Jane Rimer

(Editor's note: Do you remember a bright, vivacious, young lady who waxed eloquent about her first visit to THE HOUSE on Second Street in Fall River? I do. Her name is Jane Rimer and she captivated us with her enthusiasm and gusto when she wrote her first article "The House - Through My Eyes" on Page 7 of the January, 1998 issue. Well, here she is again, and this time after spending a night in THE HOUSE. Hold on to your hats ...)

Staying overnight at the Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast was a happening unmatched by anything I have felt, seen or heard before: the exquisite hospitality of the staff welcoming my husband and me to the house belied the fact that a double murder had once taken place within its walls.

After dropping anchor upstairs in the Lizzie/Emma suite, we returned downstairs where light snacks and beverages awaited us in the kitchen. The most charming butler/night manager/breakfast chef was eager to accommodate our needs; he also, here and there, chatted up tidbits about the Borden maid. We basked in the glow of the warmth and homeyness.



Jane Rimer - Sitting in The Parlor of The House - and Pondering

Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Jane Rimer

I then had time to peruse the parlor's offerings: books, videos and scrapbooks about the case. Fascinating and fun, to say the least. After a time, two staff members breezed in, like neighbors coming to call, to offer their tidbits about Bordendom and to answer any questions we might have. This brilliantly conceived staging, by animated and informed people, was deliciously entertaining and captivating. Dinner was next and we chose a close place; there was no patience to be away from the house any longer than necessary - you see, the entertainment was to continue after dinner well into the evening

And so the evening's parlay commenced - now focusing on the theories of the case. A staff member began a monologue . .

which easily led into a dialogue . . . and the evening so continued while we were sitting in THE parlor, at THE sofa site, just a wall away from THE kitchen stove, in THE house. The happening of the conversation and the carnage, the hospitality and the horror began weaving a strange spell about me. The dichotomy was a stun gun shot at my reasoning and resolve.

The evening ended with a tour of the basement. Dark and mysterious? Yes. Fascinating? Absolutely. Preparing for sleep, Lizzie's room was what I brought to it - ruminations of her languishing, laughing, listening, locking herself up in her self-spun web of deceit, the demons driving her away from familial foundations.

I caught myself peeking into Emma's adjoining room (looking in on Emma?) during the night - more than once - looking for I knew not what. In bed, I began to realize that there WAS no resolution to the bizarre happening - that opposite forces are with us, like it or not, and the bipolar experiences at the house - the beauty and the beast - cannot be explained, nor swallowed. They are just to be experienced.

Breakfast the next morning was tasty, served in THE dining room amidst Borden artifacts, lace and pear motifs. True to form, between the bounty and the benevolent butler, was a plate of delectable sugar cookies, in the shapes of axes, with guess-what-color on the blades' edges? Bon appetit!



The Clever Axe Cookies - However Black and White Won't Do the Blood Justice

Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Jane Rimer

I am not sure there is much left for me to say on LB. With this two-night happening, I feel I have experienced most of what Lizzie and her people had to tell me. However, when I heard that THE guest room is the most popular, I have to make arrangements for that overnight next time out. But as an uninvolved visitor, hopefully. A happening has also occurred with myself - not everything has a resolution. And that is all right.

(Editor's postnote: Jane is not sure she has much left to say about the Lizzie Borden saga. Maybe yes ... and ... maybe no ... Perhaps when Jane becomes revitalized anew, she will give us a fresh torrent of passionate interest)

FROM THE WHITEHEAD POINT OF VIEW

By Thomas C. Leonard

From Abby B. Potter. 02907
72 Lenox Ave - Prov. R.I.

ABBY B POTTER
72 LENOX AV
PROVIDENCE R I 02907

June - 12 - 68 -

Dear Mrs Lincoln,

You will no doubt, be greatly shocked, when you read this.

I was born Abby Borden Whitehead a namesake of my Aunt Abby Borden. I was born July 25, 1884 the daughter of S. Bertha and George Whitehead.

I have read your book, & while there are a few things not right I enjoyed & am glad you do think as I do. Lizzie did this awful thing. And she did truly kill my Aunt's tabby cat. I remember so well my ma saying when she was with us she really dreaded to go back to that home.

Lizzie was 4 years old when my ma was born, May 13 - 1864 and my aunt & Andrew Borden was married that year, the day my mother first crept. And my Aunt did every thing possible for my ma. My Grand ma Gray was 38 yrs old when ma was

born, & Grandpa Gray was 64 and Aunt Abby was 36.

Now about the property when my Grandpa Gray died in 1878, 77 yrs old. The old homestead was divided 4 ways, $\frac{1}{4}$ to my Grandma Gray, $\frac{1}{4}$ to Aunt Abby, $\frac{1}{4}$ to her sister Priscilla Fish, & $\frac{1}{4}$ to my ma.

Aunt Abby gave my ma her $\frac{1}{4}$ now ma had $\frac{1}{2}$. Andrew Borden bought my Grandma's $\frac{1}{4}$ & gave it to my ma & then pa & ma, bought the last $\frac{1}{4}$ of Geo. Henry Fish. Now ma owned it all. And we all believe this was the real cause of the awful crime. Lizzie never got over it. That is why her Dad gave she & Emma the old homestead on Ferry St. which in a few years, he bought this property back & paid them \$5,000 for it. It was with some of this money Lizzie went to Europe.

I would really like to hear from you. Mr. Plourde gave me your address. I have the deed of the property when it was sold to Charles Willeston.
Yours truly, Abby B. Potter.

The Abby Borden Whitehead letter is printed with permission granted by:

Victoria Lincoln Papers Ms. 313
Special Collections
Milton S. Eisenhower Library
The Johns Hopkins University

Please see the following transcription of the letter.

From Abby B. Potter
72 Lenox Ave. - Prov. R.I. 02907

June - 12 - 68 -

Dear Mrs. Lincoln,

You will no doubt be greatly shocked when you read this.

I was born Abby Borden Whitehead a namesake of my Aunt Abby Borden. I was born July 25, 1884, the daughter of S. Bertha and George Whitehead.

I have read your book and while there are a few things not right, I enjoyed (it) and am glad you do think as I do. Lizzie did this awful thing. And she did truly kill my Aunt's tabby cat. I remember so well my ma saying when she was with us (that) she really dreaded to go back to that home.

Lizzie was 4 years old when my ma was born, May 13, 1864 and my aunt and Andrew Borden was married that year, the day my mother first crept. And my Aunt did everything possible for my ma. My Grandma Gray was 38 years old when ma was born and Grandpa Gray

was 64 and Aunt Abby was 36.

Now about the property when my Grandpa Gray died in 1878, 77 years old. The old homestead was divided 4 ways, $\frac{1}{4}$ to my Grandma Gray, $\frac{1}{4}$ to Aunt Abby, $\frac{1}{4}$ to her sister Priscilla Fish and $\frac{1}{4}$ to my ma.

Aunt Abby gave my ma her $\frac{1}{4}$ (and) now ma had $\frac{1}{2}$. Andrew Borden bought my Grandma's $\frac{1}{4}$ and gave it to my ma and then pa and ma bought the last $\frac{1}{4}$ of George Henry Fish. Now ma owned it all. And we all believe this was the real cause of the awful crime. Lizzie never got over it. That is why her Dad gave she and Emma the old homestead on Ferry St., which in a few years he bought this property back, and paid them \$5000 for it. It was with some of this money Lizzie went to Europe.

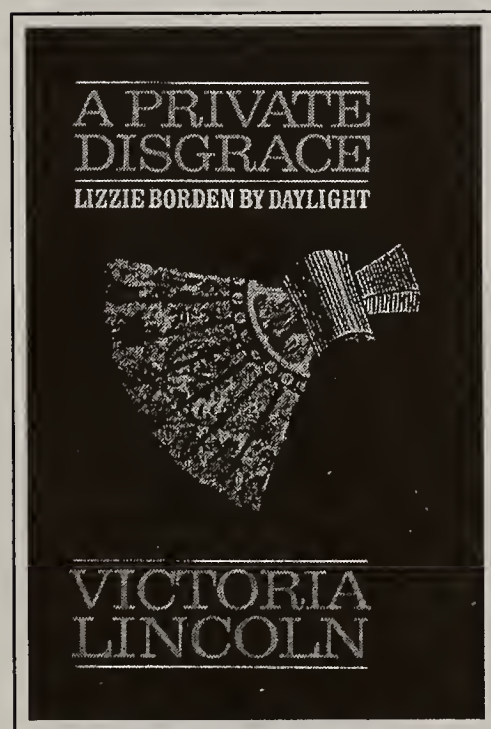
I would really like to hear from you. Mr. Plourde gave me your address.

I have the deed of the property when it was sold to Willeston.

Yours truly, Abby B. Potter.

(Editor's note: Regarding the facing page, I received a letter from Professor Thomas C. Leonard with a copy of the letter from Abby Whitehead Potter to Victoria Lincoln. He was visiting "The Milton S. Eisenhower" Library at The "John Hopkins University" and uncovered this gem. Here he tells us in his own words about Abby, her world and influence ...)

When Victoria Lincoln published *A Private Disgrace* (1967) it is not likely she expected a review from a member of Lizzie Borden's family circle. But Lincoln's papers at Johns Hopkins University show that she got one, more than 75 years after the killings. In this letter the niece of Lizzie's murdered step-mother, Abby Whitehead Potter, recalls the crime from the time that she was eight years old.



Victoria Lincoln's "A Private Disgrace"

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1967
New York, N.Y.

Abby Potter thought that she was shocking Victoria Lincoln, but her story is not now a surprise. Robert Sullivan's *Goodbye Lizzie Borden* (1974) prints some of her testimony recorded on tape in 1972. But this 1968 letter appears to be the first summary of the case from the Whitehead family's point of view. Abby Potter poured out the saga to Lincoln; unfortunately the Hopkins archive does not have the biographer's reply.

These papers hold much warmer fan mail on *A Private Disgrace* (boxes 3 & 4) and are also an archive on the Cobb-Lincoln families in 19th - 20th century Fall River. Victoria Lincoln died in 1981 and her papers were donated to Hopkins ten years later. She was not a collector of Bordeniana, but did save the "Edgar" she received from the Mystery Writers Association of America to honor *A Private Disgrace*. This ceramic statue of Poe elevates Lizzie Borden's taste in the fine arts above that of professional mystery writers.

Professor Thomas C. Leonard
Graduate School of Journalism
University of California, Berkeley
TomL@Socrates.Berkeley.edu

STUDENTS, STATUES AND THINGS

By Robert A. Flynn

Middle School student Abbey Prior of Portland, Maine recently called on Robert A. Flynn, author and collector of Lizzie Borden lore, to garner material for a presentation before her history class.

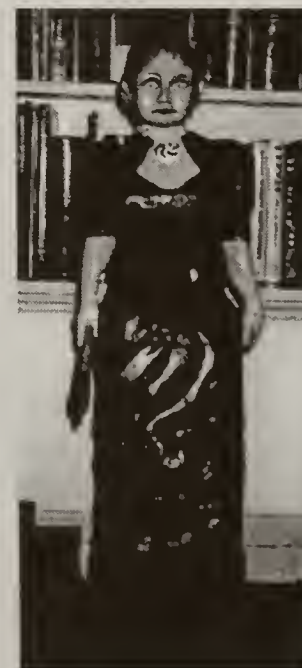


Mr. Flynn with student Abbey Prior

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Robert A. Flynn

Abbey, an honor student in teacher Rick Luthe's class, queried Flynn on many aspects of the case and impressed Flynn with her excellent grasp of the subject.

Abbey, shown here with Flynn reviewing David Kent's *Lizzie Borden Source Book*, is under the watchful glare of Lizzie.



Lizzie Borden Sculpture by John Walker

Photograph courtesy of Mr. Robert A. Flynn

The Lizzie image is a three-foot carving of Lizzie obtained recently by Flynn from Sculptor John Walker of New Boston, New Hampshire.

Abbey's ambition is to become a forensic scientist for the FBI.

AN EDMUND PEARSON / FRANK KNOWLTON PREQUEL

By Walter J. Mitchell

(Editor's note: We have Neilson Caplain to thank for the referral of Mr. Mitchell's authoritative article. Walter is a lifelong resident of Fall River and a Librarian for the school district. As a young man, his grandmother talked to him about the case. The first book he read about the case was Pearson's "The Trial of Lizzie Borden," hence his research activities in that direction.)

Approximately a century ago, two men - both students at Harvard University - occasionally dined together in Memorial Hall, that great landmark of Victorian Ruskinian Gothic architecture in Harvard Yard. One of them was Frank Knowlton, the son of Hosea Knowlton who was the Prosecutor in the Lizzie Borden murder trial. The other was Edmund Lester Pearson of Newburyport, Massachusetts, who was later to become a distinguished librarian and crime writer. More often than not, they discussed the Borden murder case which had fascinated Pearson since his boyhood when he heard the case being discussed by his family. Eventually the two gentlemen went their separate ways, but in 1923 Pearson initiated a correspondence with Knowlton in which he sought the latter's assistance in gathering material on the Borden case for an essay in a projected book about celebrated murder cases.

And so began the culmination of a lifelong interest in the Borden murder case. Pearson clearly recalled waiting in suspense at the time of the trial outside the newspaper office in Newburyport and seeing a sign displayed proclaiming, "Lizzie Borden Not Guilty."

Pearson wrote and rewrote the case in several books and magazine articles, and virtually made a career of it. Even he himself, somewhat lightheartedly, commented about his extreme interest in the Borden case.

I notice in one of his books, four or five references to Miss Lizzie Borden and her adventures in Fall River. "To leave them is to run the dreadful risk of being compared to Mr. Dick with King Charles' head. Or even worse, to have someone say that I am suffering from a complex or an obsession¹ ..."

Pearson's magnum opus was, of course, his *Trial of Lizzie Borden* (1937) which contained a long essay on the case, together with Pearson's edited version of the trial testimony and arguments. For almost a quarter century the book was regarded as the authoritative work on the Borden murder case. But in 1961, Edward D. Radin, a New York attorney, produced his *Lizzie Borden: the Untold Story*, really the outstanding book of Lizzie's innocence. In that book he conclusively showed that Pearson was hopelessly biased against Lizzie Borden in his editing of the trial testimony. That Pearson approached the task of editing the trial minutes with certain preconceived notions and prejudices cannot be denied. But why was this man, who was an outstanding librarian, literary critic, and crime writer of his time, so biased against Lizzie Borden?

The truth of the matter is that Edmund Pearson grew up and lived during times when prejudice and bias, in many different guises, were prevalent and quite acceptable. Born in Newburyport, Massachusetts to a family which had lived in the area for generations, Pearson might correctly be described as a Victorian -

Edwardian gentleman. He was educated at Harvard, which at that time was an elitist institution with white Anglo-Saxon protestant values.

Following his graduation from Harvard, Pearson studied at the New York State Library School in Albany. From 1906 to 1920 he wrote a column for the *Boston Evening Transcript*, the newspaper of the Boston Brahmins. *The Librarian* column, while humorous, was quite caustic and elitist. Its author was unrelenting in his criticisms of the library world, both of patrons and employees. As a criminologist, Pearson leaned heavily toward the side of the prosecution, and later in life was a strong backer of capital punishment.

In common with most men of his time and social standing, Edmund Pearson harbored certain attitudes toward women and their role in the home and society in general. He wrote of the Victorian lady:

"She was a shy swooning person surrounded by voluminous clothing. Her 'limbs' - for she had no legs - were concealed by pantalettes in her early years; later by skirts and petticoats of great length and enormous circumference. She took part in nothing more active than croquet and archery. Her eyes drooped when a man approached; she was past belief timid and prudish ..."²

From this point of view, the Victorian woman's station in life was to be an ideally submissive wife, and doting mother, or else a spinster engaged in charitable works. The fictional women in Pearson's *The Librarian* column are aggressive and overpowering. He has little or no tolerance of them, despite the fact that he married Mary Sellers in 1908, who survived him as his widow.

When Pearson ultimately forsook the library profession for writing stories about crime and criminals, he delved into many cases, but Lizzie Borden remained the star of his cast. She was his Lizzie, his "prima donna" as he described her.

From the start he was absolutely convinced of her guilt. Approaching her story with the outlook of a gentleman of his times, he was firmly convinced that Lizzie Borden committed murder and got away with it. In his mind, Lizzie was very much at odds with his conception of what a Victorian woman should be. That a woman such as Lizzie Borden might possibly be innocent, or perhaps be a woman who was simply striking a blow for her rights and freedom (in a most unconventional way, admittedly) in all probability never crossed his mind. To him, she was a cold-blooded murderess and the antithesis of what a woman should be in terms of his preconceived notions formed by his background and social mores. Is it any wonder then that this genial bibliophile and librarian was so fascinated by his self-created image of Lizzie Borden, hatchet in hand, coldly stalking her parents?

¹ Pearson, Edmund Lester, *Instigation of the Devil*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1930, p. XI - XII.

² Pearson, Edmund Lester, *Murder at Smutty Nose and Other Murders*, Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page and Co., p. 234.

The Edmund Lester Pearson/Frank Warren Knowlton Correspondence

Part IV

Printed courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society

(Editor's note: We continue onward with the interesting and elucidating Pearson/Knowlton letters. This batch begins after "Studies in Murder" was written - but before publication.)

Letter Number 35:

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, March 3, 1924

Dear Knowlton,- Here is an announcement of the murder book, which will be out, at the earliest, in May. The Borden case is the leading one, and will probably exceed all the others in length, as you have helped me to get so much interesting material about it.

I may send you a few inquiries in the course of the next week or two. Here are some now: was not that preliminary hearing in Fall River, before Judge Blaisdell, unusual in length, if not unprecedented? I have said something to that effect, but could perhaps make what I have said more definite. I suppose such a preliminary hearing before a magistrate is usual, before the evidence is presented to the Grand Jury, but this lasted six days. I never heard of one as long as that; have you?

Sincerely yours
Edmund L. Pearson

Letter Number 36:

March 4, 1924.

My dear Pearson:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 3 with the announcement of the book "Studies in Murder". You have whetted my appetite.

My offhand impression is that the preliminary hearing before Judge Blaisdell, which was an inquest, was not unusual at that time. This was not in the nature of a preliminary hearing to determine the guilt or probable cause for holding for the Jury of a defendant charged with murder, in which case a very cursory hearing was usually had, but rather a proceeding under our laws which provides for an Inquest to be held where the Medical Examiner certifies that upon a review and autopsy death has been caused by the act of another and at which the District Attorney may attend and examine the witnesses. My feeling is that while inquests of six

days in length are not usual they are not so unusual as to be extraordinary, particularly where the inquiry into the crime discloses rather baffling circumstances. However, I am asking some of my friends among the District Attorneys to let me know about this and I shall tell you what they say.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Edmund L. Pearson
The New York Public Library,
476 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

FWK:ED

Letter Number 37:

March 4, 1924.

Honorable Herbert Parker,
11 Pemberton Square,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Parker:

A friend of mine, an author, in New York, is preparing a book for Macmillan, the publishers, entitled "Studies in Murder," in which he is treating various important trials with an effort at accuracy.

He is writing of the famous "Lizzie Borden" case and asks me whether the preliminary hearing in Fall River before Judge Blaisdell was not unusual in length, if not unprecedented. This was, I understand, an inquest, although the defendant was not arrested until after the inquest was concluded, and lasted six days, at which my father examined all the witnesses and at which Miss Borden testified. The evidence at the inquest was excluded but offered by the Government, as you may remember.

My lacking acquaintance with criminal cases makes me doubtful as to what to tell my friend, the author, although I have written him that I thought that such a hearing while not common was not so unusual as to be extraordinary. It certainly was not unprecedented. I should be glad if you would let me know how you would answer the question.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

This letter sent to:

Asa P. French, 45 Milk St., Boston,
 Hon. James M. Swift, 82 Devonshire St.,
 Boston
 Michael J. Sughrue 20 Pemberton Square,
 Boston
 Frederick H. Chase, 6 Beacon St., Boston.
 Hon. Robt. O. Harris,
 85 Devonshire St.,
 Boston,
 Hon. Geo. A. Sanderson, J. Sup. Ct.,
 Court House, Boston,
 Hon. John C. Hammond, 59 Main St.,
 Northampton, Mass.

quest. It was afterwards adjourned until August 25, when it began and lasted for six days. It seems to have been a trial in everything except the presence of a jury. Cross-examinations by counsel, and arguments by them, in closing, at any rate. This was the proceeding which I thought might have been unusual, at least in length.

Sincerely yours,
 E.L. Pearson

Letter Number 39:

March 7, 1924.

My Dear Pearson:

Thank you for your letter of March 5. I am afraid that I did not understand clearly just what took place before Judge Blaisdell. Time has dimmed my memory of the events. I shall make some further inquiries and let you know.

In the meantime I am enclosing three letters which I have received. Mr. Herbert Parker, who was my father's successor as Attorney General, was District Attorney of the Worcester District and he, himself, prosecuted some of the famous murder cases of his time, notably the Tucker case, for the murder of Mabel Page, and the Angles Snell case, a murder which took place on a remote and desolate beach in New Bedford. Asa P. French you know, and James M. Swift was for a while District Attorney for the Fall River District and later Attorney General. He also handled several murder cases.

Yours sincerely,

FWK:ED
 Encs.

Mr. Edmund Pearson
 476 Fifth Avenue,
 New York City.

Letter Number 40:

LAW OFFICES OF
 Herbert Parker

910-919 Barristers Hall
 Boston, March 6, 1924.

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
 Messrs. Choate, Hall & Stewart,
 30 State Street.
 Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Knowlton:

The New York Public Library
 476 FIFTH AVENUE
 New York, March 5, 1924

Dear Knowlton:
 Is it possible that you are confusing the inquest with the preliminary hearing?
 According to Porter's book on the Borden case, the inquest was held before Judge Blaisdell, August 10-12, 1892. On the last date Miss Borden was arrested and arraigned in the District Court, before the same Justice, August 13. Mr. Jennings protested at Judge Blaisdell sitting in what he called this "double capacity"; whereupon the District Attorney pointed out that the inquest, which was in itself an action against no one, was still proceeding, and that it had no bearing on the present hearing. The Court overruled Mr. Jennings' action and sustained the District Attorney's demurrer. Both

congress then agreed on August 22 for the preliminary hearing, which does not seem to be referred to as an inquest. It was afterwards adjourned until August 25, when it began, and lasted for six days. It seems to have been a trial in everything except the presence of a jury. Cross-examinations by counsel, and arguments by them, in closing, at any rate. This was the proceeding which I thought might have been unusual, at least, in length.

Sincerely yours,
 E.L. Pearson

Letter Number 38:

Transcription of Letter Number 38:

The New York Public Library
 Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, March 5, 1924

Dear Knowlton,

Is it possible that you are confusing the inquest with the preliminary trial?

According to Porter's book on the Borden case, the inquest was held before Judge Blaisdell, August 10 - 12, 1892. On the last date Miss Borden was arrested and arraigned in the District Court, before the same Justice, August 13. Mr. Jennings protested at Judge Blaisdell sitting in what he called this "double capacity." Whereupon the District Attorney pointed out that the inquest, which was in itself an action against no one, was still proceeding, and that it had no bearing on the present hearing. The Court overruled Mr. Jennings' action and sustained the District Attorney's demurrer. Both lawyers then agreed on August 22 for the preliminary hearing, which does not seem to be referred to as an in-

I am delighted to have your letter bringing to my attention incidents associated with my much loved friend, your father.

You, of course know, that I had no official or professional relations with the Lizzie Borden case. From time to time, however, I did talk with your father and with Mr. Moody on certain phases of it both before it came to trial and during the trial. The proceedings at and of the inquest were, so far as I can remember, of no especial significance, except because of Miss Borden's having been summoned for attendance there and, as I remember it, she did so appear, but I do not now remember whether she did or did not, expressly waive any claim of immunity. The question of admissibility of her testimony at the inquest was, as you doubtless remember, one of the critical incidents at the trial. Her testimony, as was, I think expected by the prosecutors, excluded.

The inquest, following the obviously unnatural deaths of Miss Borden's parents, was held, pursuant to statutory provisions, and such inquest thereafter was merely a normal incident relating to preliminary inquiries. The time consumed in the inquest was not, as I remember such incidents, unusual, nor, because of its length, in any wise notable. It becomes significant, as a part of the legal analysis of the case and the trial only as it involved the admissibility of Miss Borden's testimony there offered.

I remember of talking with Moody long after the trial and after your father's death. Moody, evidently, thought the case should be officially published, under our statute, and surely the case was of sufficient popular interest to have warranted such publication, and since it had no official review by the Full Court, such publication would have afforded to the Bar the only detailed record of the serious questions involved; but the Attorney General, and I think the Governor, were of opinion that since the result of the trial was an acquittal of the defendant, there might be rational objection to the renewed publicity incident to the production of the volumes.

I am very glad you wrote me and I have much happiness in these moments of close thought of your honored father. I should be glad, if it is in any wise possible, to make any useful suggestion to you or your friend with respect to this famous case.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Herbert Parker

(Editor's note: I must say, we find revealed here some interesting answers to long-held questions.

1. *Mr. Moody wanted to officially publish the trial transcript.*
2. *There was a statute under which the transcript could have been published.*
3. *There was not any official review of the proceedings by the full court.*
4. *The Bar was never afforded a detailed record of the serious questions involved.*
5. *The Attorney General, and maybe the Governor also, did not wish to open the door to further publicity.*
6. *This is probably why it is so difficult and time consuming today to get a trial transcript, and also, why it can only be had in a microfilm format and was never converted to a paper document.)*

Letter Number 41:

LAW OFFICE OF ASA P. FRENCH
45 Milk Street
Rooms 609 - 613
Boston

6 March, 1924.

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
30 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Knowlton,

I have your letter of March 4th. By a singular coincidence there came to me, in the same mail, a letter from Mr. Pearson, a portion of whose forthcoming volume is to be devoted to the Bram case in which I was of counsel for the defendant.

As to your inquiry, the answer you have made to Mr. Pearson's question regarding the inquest in the Borden case is in accordance with my experience and is quite correct. I will, however, look over, tonight, the published account of the trial which I have at home, and if, after having done so, anything different suggests itself to me, I will call you up, or write you, tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Asa P. French

F/D

Letter Number 42:

JAMES M. SWIFT
Counselor at Law
401-3 Shawmut Bank Bldg.
82 Devonshire St., Boston,

Mar. 6, 1924.

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
Choate, Hall & Stewart,
30 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Frank:

Replying to your letter of March 4th. concerning the Lizzie Borden trial, the case is not so fresh in my mind as it might be, and the book published about it is in my Fall River library. My recollection, however, is that the unusual part about it was that the person suspected of the murder, Miss Borden, was allowed to testify at the inquest. It does not seem to me very material that it took six days. I do not recall any other murder inquest that took so long a time as that, although I seem to recall that the Jane Toppan case, in 1901 or 1902, took at least four days, and the Angles Snell case, in 1903, consumed quite a few days, but the exact number I cannot recall.

The situation in the Borden case was, of course, that Miss Borden occupied at that time so high a standing in the community that it was thought impossible by the general public that she could be involved, and I presume that attitude was reflected in the feeling of the presiding judge at the inquest.

I am sorry that I cannot give you something more definite.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ J.M. Swift.

SW

Letter Number 43:

March 7, 1924.

Herbert Parker Esq.,
910 Barristers Hall
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Parker:

I have your very nice letter of March 6 and I am very glad to have not only your recollection in reference to the Borden case but your very kind words about my father.

Mr. Pearson writes me, after I had written to him my first impression, as follows:

"Is it possible that you are confusing the inquest with the preliminary trial?"

According to Porter's book on the Borden case, the inquest was held before Judge Blaisdell, August 10 -

12, 1892. On the last date Miss Borden was arrested, and arraigneded in the District Court, before the same Justice, August 13. Mr. Jennings protested at Judge Blaisdell sitting in what he called this "double capacity" whereupon the District Attorney pointed out that the inquest, which was in itself an action against no one, was still proceeding, and that it had no bearing on the present hearing. The Court overruled Mr. Jennings's motion and sustained the District Attorney's demurrer. Both lawyers then agreed on August 22 for the preliminary hearing, which does not seem to be referred to as an inquest. It was afterwards adjourned until August 25, when it began and lasted for six days. It seems to have been a trial in everything except the presence of a jury. Cross examinations by counsel, and arguments by them, in closing, at any rate. This was the proceeding which I thought might have been unusual, at least, in length."

This will probably refresh your recollection and would it change your answer to him?

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 44:

March 7, 1924.

James M. Swift, Esq.
82 Devonshire Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear James,

Thank you for your very kind letter of March 6 about the Lizzie Borden case. I have told Mr. Pearson what you say.

In the meantime in answer to my first impressions about the case, Mr. Pearson writes me as follows:

"Is it possible that you are confusing the inquest with the preliminary trial?"

According to Porter's book on the Borden case, the inquest was held before Judge Blaisdell, August 10 - 12, 1892. On the last date Miss Borden was arrested, and arraigneded in the District Court, before the same

Justice, August 13. Mr. Jennings protested at Judge Blaisdell sitting in what he called this "double capacity" whereupon the District Attorney pointed out that the inquest, which was in itself an action against no one, was still proceeding, and that it had no bearing on the present hearing. The Court overruled Mr. Jennings' motion and sustained the District Attorney's demurrer. Both lawyers then agreed on August 22 for the preliminary hearing, which does not seem to be referred to as an inquest. It was afterwards adjourned until August 25, when it began and lasted for six days. It seems to have been a trial in everything except the presence of a jury. Cross examinations by counsel, and arguments by them, in closing, at any rate. This was the proceeding which I thought might have been unusual, at least, in length."

This will probably refresh your recollection and I wonder if it would change your answer to him?

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 45:

March 7, 1924.

Asa P. French, Esq.
45 Milk Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. French,

Thank you for your very good letter of March 6.

After I had given Pearson my first impressions about the case, he writes me as follows:

"Is it possible that you are confusing the inquest with the preliminary trial?"

According to Porter's book on the Borden case, the inquest was held before Judge Blaisdell, August 10 - 12, 1892. On the last date Miss Borden was arrested, and arraigned in the District Court, before the same Justice, August 13. Mr. Jennings protested at Judge Blaisdell sitting in what he called this "double capacity" whereupon the District Attorney pointed out that the inquest, which was in itself

an action against no one, was still proceeding, and that it had no bearing on the present hearing. The Court overruled Mr. Jennings' motion and sustained the District Attorney's demurrer. Both lawyers then agreed on August 22 for the preliminary hearing, which does not seem to be referred to as an inquest. It was afterwards adjourned until August 25, when it began and lasted for six days. It seems to have been a trial in everything except the presence of a jury. Cross examinations by counsel, and arguments by them, in closing, at any rate. This was the proceeding which I thought might have been unusual, at least, in length."

This will perhaps refresh your recollection and I wonder if you would have any different feeling in view of what he states?

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 46:

JAMES M. SWIFT
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
401-3 SHAWMUT BANK BUILDING
82 DEVONSHIRE STREET

BOSTON, Mar. 8, 1924.

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.
Choate, Hall & Stewart,
30 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Frank:

Replying to yours of March 7th. re the Lizzie Borden case, if your friend has Porter's book on the trial, he has about everything you could get at the present time, except the court records.

Of course, under our statutes inquests and preliminary hearings are entirely separate, and may be independent of each other.

The usual practice is, I believe, to use the inquest to a sufficient extent to get sufficient evidence to swear out a warrant for the arrest of the suspected person, who then would be put on trial at the preliminary hearing to ascertain whether there is sufficient evidence to bind the person over for the grand jury.

While I haven't any definite recollection

of cases in mind as to length of time of preliminary hearings, my general impression is that the course as outlined in your letter followed in the Borden case, was not particularly unusual under our practice.

Sincerely yours,
/S/ J.M. Swift

SW

Letter Number 47:

March 10, 1924.

James M. Swift, Esq.,
82 Devonshire Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your letter of March 8. I shall send your opinion on to my New York author friend.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 48:

March 10, 1924.

Hon. George A. Sanderson,
Hampson Court,
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Judge Sanderson:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 8, not only for the suggestions you make as to the proper answer to give to my New York author friend, but also the very interesting incident of the Eastman case.

The book, I think is likely to be very interesting and I am rather inclined to think that its preparation is in good hands.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Letter Number 49:

Law Office of Asa P. French

43 MILK STREET

ASA P. FRENCH
JAMES S. ALLEN, JR.
JONATHAN W. FRENCH

ROOMS 609 - 613

Boston

TELEPHONES MAIN 16
MAIN 17

10. March, 1924.

Dear Mr. Knowlton,

Regarding the Borden case and the suggestion of Mr. Pearson quoted in your letter to me of March 7th, it occurs to me to say, further,-

1. That the public hearing before Judge Blaisdell should not be referred to by Mr. Pearson as a "trial," although it is carelessly so denominated in Mr. Porter's narrative of the case; it was, of course, merely a preliminary hearing to determine whether or not there was probable cause to hold the accused for the grand jury.

2. It was undoubtedly of unusual length, explicable, of course, by the intricacy of the case, the number of witnesses called, and the laudable determination of Miss Borden's counsel to fight every inch of the ground.

It was unique, I am sure, only in the fact that a person under suspicion was examined at the inquest, and the testimony there given was used against her at the hearing upon probable cause. Why it was admitted without objection (as I believe it was) I cannot understand, unless her counsel did not know what she had said and wished to ascertain, or because a request for its exclusion would have had an unfavorable influence upon public opinion which then seemed to be very strongly in her favor, and upon which the ultimate result may have largely depended. I need not remind you that this testimony was excluded at the trial, for you refer to that fact in your earlier letter.

I should be very glad if, at some time, you would tell me how your father explained the verdict. The evidence seems as nearly a positive demonstration of guilt as one could possibly conceive of.

Sincerely yours,

Asa French

Frank W. Knowlton, Esq.,
30 State Street, Boston.

F/D

Letter Number 50:

March 11, 1924.

Asa P. French, Esq.,
45 Milk Street.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. French:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 10 which I think will be very helpful

to Mr. Pearson.

Unfortunately nobody seems to be able to find the stenographic report of the inquest and for that reason Mr. Pearson has had to rely upon newspaper accounts and a book published by a newspaper man at the time. However, I am going to send your letter on to him for his assistance.

You ask me how my father explains the verdict. He knew the strength of public opinion and knew the way in which it was used by church organizations and others to bring about an atmosphere. The conduct of the judges did not help at all to dissipate that atmosphere and I think that the result was about as he expected. I am sending you a copy of a letter that father wrote to Mr. Pillsbury a little over a month before the trial which shows his frame of mind just before the trial and indicates clearly that he had no delusions about it.

Thank you very much for your kindness.

Yours very truly,

FWK:ED

Enc.

(Editor's note: In letter number 49, it would appear that Mr. French took Mr. Pearson to task for some sloppy reporting. This was followed up by Mr. Knowlton explaining the difficulty in obtaining a transcription of the inquest. Today, the inquest transcript can be purchased at the Fall River Historical Society. We have easy access to material today that was lacking 75 years ago! Think of it! More next issue.)

LIZBITS

(Continued from Page 5)

Dr. Bowen, as you know, played a prominent part in the drama of the Borden murder case. There was an apartment up the stairs in his house in which Mary Wyatt resided.

Mr. Miller was the builder of the Borden house across the

street. At one time he employed Andrew in working on other projects. His son Franklin was accorded recognition as a skilled artist in the Fall River school of still-life painting.

On the Bowen side of these homes, Andrew was pleased to see a narrow garden, and on the Miller side, an orchard that occupied the space of numbers 95-97.

The *New York and Boston Dispatch Express Co.* maintained a stable at number 99. That company's main office was on Pleasant Street. It was the agent for the principal express companies in Fall River, including *Kinsley's*. The latter operated the first wagon express in this town.

If, on rare occasion, Andrew felt the need of a laundered shirt there was a Chinese laundry nearby. Gew Lee operated one at number 101.

Last on the block, on the corner of Spring Street, a painter by the name of John W. Gray occupied number 103.

Andrew noted that most of the buildings on the West side of Second Street between Pleasant and Borden Streets were of brick construction. Between Borden and Spring, closer to his own home, the buildings were made of wood. Beyond Spring Street stood the imposing and beautiful *St. Mary's Cathedral and Parochial School*.

Happy at last to arrive at home, Andrew looked forward to a welcome nap which would ease the discomfort of his ailing stomach. So he crossed over to his own side of Second Street, the East side. He turned to his left for the few steps to number 92, where he met his doom.

Many changes have taken place since Andrew's day. In 1896 the site numbers throughout the city were changed. The Borden house was numbered 228. Most recently the city center has been split in two by an express highway tunneled under Main Street. Market Square is gone, as well as the parts of Pleasant and Pocasset Streets that Andrew knew. A Government Center is built over the highway where the elegant City Hall once stood. Second Street now terminates at Borden Street. A bus station is situated opposite Andrew's home. Fortunately the house has been preserved and is occupied by the *Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast and Museum*. It was allowed to assume the old address, number 92. Still another Bed & Breakfast welcomes guests in *Maplecroft*, the house Lizzie occupied on French Street.

Much of the above information has been obtained from Fall River City Directory of 1892. That volume lists entries only up to November of the previous year. The 1893 directory shows

some changes of occupancy in 1892 which I have not recorded. The construction materials of the various buildings have been obtained from a Fall River street map. In a few cases where facts are not clear, I have made reasonable assumptions.

I would like to acknowledge the generous support of Leonard Rebello who helped in the preparation of this essay.



October 31, 1987 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

LIZZIE BORDEN - A NEW MUSICAL

by the Editor

Now we all know about Jack Beeson's Opera *Lizzie Borden* and the Agnes de Mille ballet *Fall River Legend*, but did you know there will be a new Lizzie Borden musical premiering this month? It's true. October 28 is the day and the American Stage Company is the place, located off Route 4 and River Road in Teaneck, NJ. (See advertisement on facing page.)



Christopher McGovern and Rose McGuire on the steps of 92 Second Street

Photograph courtesy of Christopher McGovern

The book and lyrics were written by Christopher McGovern and Amy Powers, and music by Christopher McGovern. Amy was the original lyricist for *Sunset Boulevard* (on Broadway) and two of her songs from that score were recorded by Barbra Streisand. Mr. McGovern is a commercial and theatre writer whose scores include Theatreworks/USA's *The Ugly Duck* seen off-Broadway at the Promenade Theatre. He is the resident composer/lyricist for *Stages of Imagination* in Philadelphia where his *The Dragon Singer* received a National Parents' Choice Award, as well as numerous NEA grants and honors. He has served as musical director and pianist for many off-Broadway and regional shows, most recently *The Fishkin Touch* starring Mike Burstyn and Joan Copeland at Playhouse 91. If this were not enough, he has been a *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* subscriber since September, 1996.

The musical will star Alison Fraser as Lizzie Borden. Eleanor Glockner will play Mrs. Abby Borden, Michael Babin, mythical character Robert Flaherty, and also, The State. Rose McGuire of Broadway's *Cyrano* and *Cats* will play Bridget Sullivan. Rex Hays will be Andrew Borden and 12 year-old singer/actress Madeline Blue will be playing The Girl.

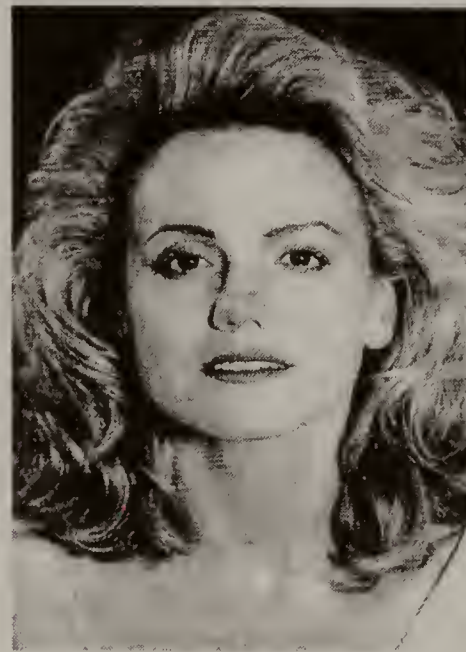
Adelaide Churchill and Alice Russell are combined into one role played by Brenda Cummings. Singer/actor Jamey McGaugh has been cast as Fleet, and Joan Barber (currently on Broadway in *The Sound of Music*) will be playing Emma Borden.

As is usual in the creative process, accuracy, is sometimes sacrificed on the altar of expediency. It would appear that Miss Borden's guilt is assumed. It also appears that historical revisionist incest murmurings play a role in motivation theory. Putting this aside for the moment, your editor has listened to one of the

songs, *I Cry Alone* sung by Alison Fraser and Karen Reed and found it haunting and strangely compelling. However, in my untutored opinion, it does not seem to reflect the personage and personality of Miss Lizzie Borden.

ABOUT ALISON FRASER

Alison Fraser was last seen on Broadway as Dorine in *Tartuffe: Born Again* at Circle in the Square, and off-Broadway as Uta in Charles Busch and Rusty Magee's *The Green Heart* at



Miss Alison Fraser

Photograph courtesy of Christopher McGovern

Manhattan Theatre Club. She originated the part of Callie in the world premiere of Tracey Jackson's *Jackie O's Glasses* at the Westport Country Playhouse. She has received two Tony Award nominations, one for playing Josefina/Monica in *Romance/Romance*, and for portraying Martha in *The Secret Garden* (for which she also received a Drama Desk nomination.)

She is the recipient of the first-ever Barrymore Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of the Blonde in *Gunmetal Blues* at the Wilma Theatre in Philadelphia. She was Helena Landless in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* on Broadway, and roles she has originated include Trina in *March of the Falsettos* and its prequel *In Trousers* (at Playwrights Horizons), Marian Ames in *Swingtime Canteen* (The Blue Angel, NYC), Miss Drumgoole in Todd Rundgren's *Up Against It* (The Public Theatre), Connie/Petula/Brenda in *Beehive* (Village Gate) and Ricki Valentine in *The Gig* (Manhattan Theatre Club).

Her recordings include *Stand Up Shakespeare*, *The Secret Garden*, *Romance/Romance*, *March of the Falsettos*, *In Trousers*, *Beehive*, and *Alison Fraser-A New York Romance* on Original Cast Records. Her voice has also been heard on innumerable radio and TV commercials, as well as books on tape.

Ms. Fraser has played the role of Lizzie Borden since the project's first living room reading in the fall of 1996. Since then, she has portrayed Lizzie in an intimate staged reading sponsored by the Goodspeed Opera House in December of 1996, the Broadway Dozen readings at the York Theatre in Manhattan in June of 1997, and at the ASCAP Songwriters Series in December of 1997. She will again play Miss Borden in the world premiere production at American Stage Company this October.

2663-05



ANNOUNCING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A NEW
MUSICAL.....

LIZZIE BORDEN

Featuring two-time Tony nominee ALISON FRASER as Lizzie

book & lyrics by:
Christopher McGovern & Amy Powers

music by:
Christopher McGovern

DIRECTED BY BILL CASTELLINO

AMERICAN STAGE COMPANY Information & Tickets (201) 692-7720

James N. Vagias, executive producer

PREVIEWS BEGIN OCTOBER 28, 1998
OPENING NIGHT: OCTOBER 31, 1998

visit our website:
<http://members.aol.com/bearluvva/index.html>



Ho, Hum... SAME OLD STORY.
Rich, abusive father. Uncaring stepmother.
And a daughter WIELDING AN AX.
...or did she???

A century ago, on August 4 of 1892, in an unassuming house at 92 Second Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, 32 year old Lizzie Borden was accused of the brutal murders of her father and stepmother. But did she? Does the evidence really point straight at Miss Lizzie, or was the real perpetrator overlooked in the aftermath of confusion and emotions? Come decide for yourself in the house where the unimaginable happened. Relax in the beautifully restored Victorian setting - open a book in the sitting room and gaze about at the actual scene of which you are reading; go into the front parlor and watch the documentaries and movies made of the crime; then tour the home from basement to attic, hear the myths and learn the facts. Relax in your chosen bedroom... will the truth be whispered to you in your dreams?

Join us for our annual All Hallow's Eve celebration. Meet Lizzie, Emma, and the other players in the Borden murder mystery. Enjoy our delicious foods, let our Tarot Card reader see into your future. Tour the home, but beware of surprise guests who may be lurking in unexpected places. Find Lizzie's black cat and win a special prize. Tickets only \$25.00 per person.

**For information/reservations call 508-675-7333 & Visit us on the Internet @www.lizzie-borden.com
 The Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast & Museum & 92 Second Street & Fall River, MA 02721**

Bristol Community College
 777 Elsbree Street
 Fall River, MA 02720-7391

**Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Fall River, MA
 Permit No. 140**

Make check or money order payable to the

For new subscribers either remove the label and write your name and address or just write to us with the same information. Please include your check or money order.

Mail to:

Mr. Jules Ryckebusch - Publisher
 Bristol Community College
 777 Elsbree Street
 Fall River MA 02720-7391

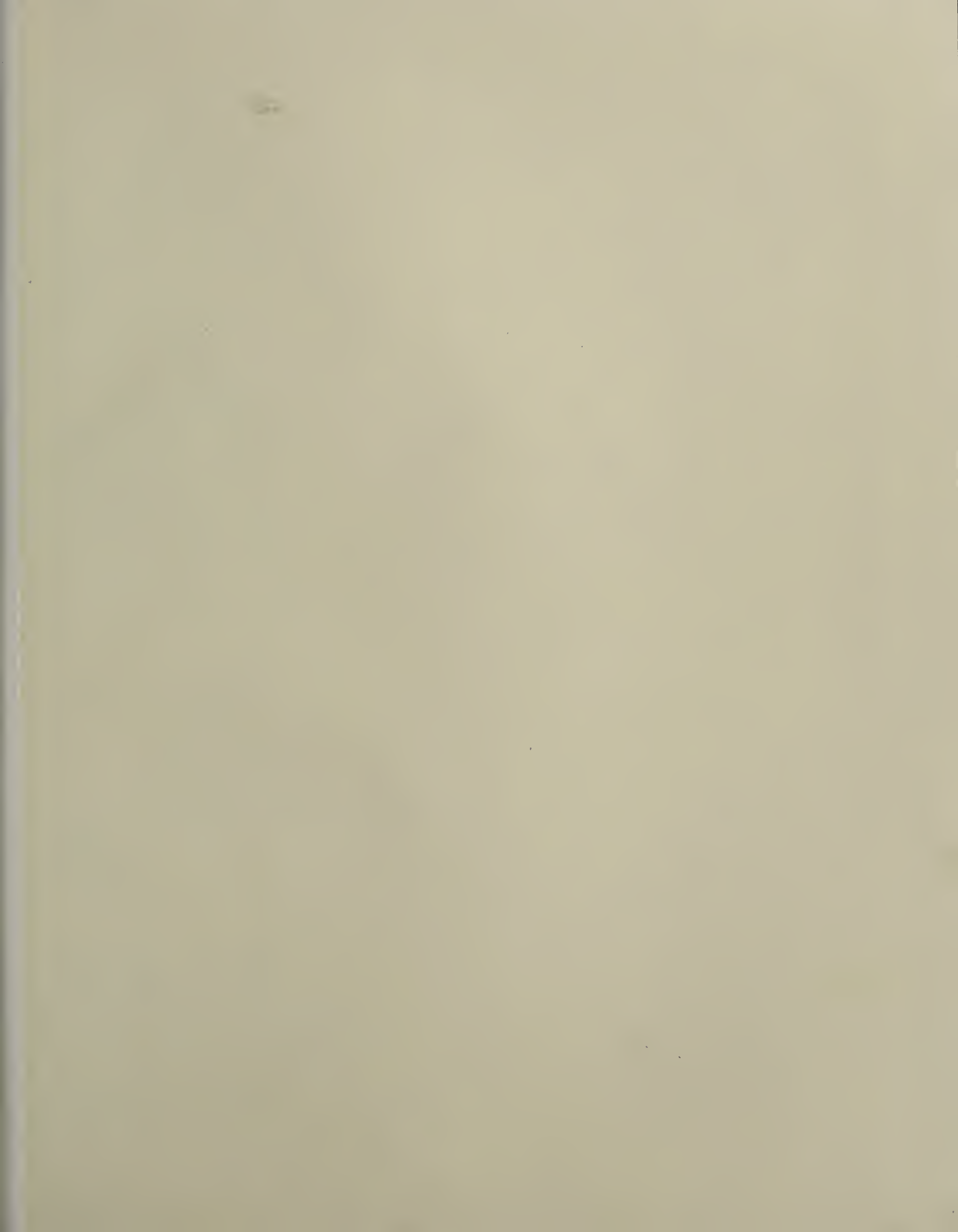
If your label says - **Remaining Issues: 0** - Renew your subscription now!

Cut-out or duplicate coupon and mail today! Your Choice!

U.S.A. → 1 Year \$14.00 2 Years \$ 24.00

Non U.S.A. → 1 Year \$20.00 2 Years \$ 32.00

Affix mailing label here.



ACME
BOOKBINDING CO., INC.

JUL 04 1999

100 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

